

Cryotherapy Wart Removal

AMBULATORY CARE:

What you need to know about cryotherapy wart removal: Cryotherapy wart removal is a procedure to remove your wart by freezing it with liquid nitrogen.

How to prepare for cryotherapy wart removal: Your healthcare provider may talk to you about how to prepare for this procedure. You may need to treat your wart at home for several days before your procedure. To treat your wart at home, first clean your wart with soap and water. Next, apply 17% salicylic acid gel on your wart. Instead, you can cover the wart with a piece of 40% salicylic acid pad that is cut to a size that is slightly larger than the wart. Leave this pad or the gel on your wart for up to 24 hours. If the pad comes off during the day, you can leave the area uncovered. You may keep the pad on only at night.

What will happen during cryotherapy wart removal: Your healthcare provider will remove any dead skin on your wart. He will then use a cotton swab, spray, or cryoprobe (long, pointed device) to apply the liquid nitrogen to your wart. It may take up to 60 seconds for the wart to freeze. The frozen tissue will then be allowed to thaw slowly. Your healthcare provider may apply liquid nitrogen again after a few minutes.

What will happen after cryotherapy wart removal: You may have pain and burning in the treated area for 1 to 2 days after your procedure. You may also have redness and swelling, or you may develop a blister in the treated area. A scab will form in the treated area and may take up to 2 weeks to fall off. Your healthcare provider will tell you how to care for the treated area as it heals.

Risks of cryotherapy wart removal: A scar may form after the treated area heals. Cryotherapy may cause the treated skin to be lighter or darker than the skin around it. The wart may not go away or it may come back. You may need to return to see your healthcare provider for more cryotherapy treatments.

Seek care immediately if:

- You have pain or swelling that gets worse, or does not go away.

Contact your healthcare provider if:

- You have a fever.
- You have a blister or open sore after treatment that does not heal.
- Your wound is red, swollen, and draining pus.
- Your wart does not go away completely or it returns.
- You have questions or concerns about your condition or care.

Medicines:

- **NSAIDs**, such as ibuprofen, help decrease swelling, pain, and fever. This medicine is available with or without a doctor's order. NSAIDs can cause stomach bleeding or kidney problems in certain people. If you take blood thinner medicine, **always** ask if NSAIDs are safe for you. Always read the medicine label and follow directions. **Do not give these medicines to children under 6 months of age without direction from your child's healthcare provider.**
- **Take your medicine as directed.** Contact your healthcare provider if you think your medicine is not helping or if you have side effects. Tell him or her if you are allergic to any medicine. Keep a list of the medicines, vitamins, and herbs you take. Include the amounts, and when and why you take them. Bring the list or the pill bottles to follow-up visits. Carry your medicine list with you in case of an emergency.

Follow up with your healthcare provider as directed: Write down your questions so you remember to ask them during your visits.