

Actinic Keratosis Information Sheet

Today you will be treated for Actinic Keratosis (AK), a skin lesion that is considered precancerous because it could potentially develop into skin cancer. You can reduce your risk of AKs by minimizing your sun exposure and protecting your skin from UV rays.

Please read this sheet for information regarding the treatment you will soon undergo as well as post-treatment wound-care instructions

Treatment

- Today you will be treated with **Cryosurgery**, a freezing treatment. Liquid nitrogen will be applied to the skin to freeze and destroy the superficial skin growth.
- This treatment may cause stinging, itching, and mild pain. The extent of this discomfort is variable, and if necessary, it may be treated with extra-strength Tylenol®.
- If you would like more information on Cryosurgery, please ask the medical assistants for a more detailed information sheet.

What to expect after treatment:

- A few hours after treatment, your skin may become swollen and red. Later on, it may blister and scab over. This scab should fall off by itself in 1 to 3 weeks. If a lesion still remains after the scab falls off, please call to schedule a follow-up appointment, if one has not already been made.
- No special care is necessary after treatment. You may wash your skin as usual and use makeup or other cosmetics. If the scab becomes irritated by clothing or other scratching, then you may cover the area with a small bandage.
- If after several weeks the wound has not healed, you develop a fever, or the wound begins to create discharge, please call our office at 355-1585.