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CRYOSURGERY (WARTS)

1. You were treated with liquid nitrogen, which produces a cold induced injury by rapid freezing of the skin. The area and surrounding tissues may swell within an hour and be accompanied by a throbbing pain. In rare instances, a blister or blood-filled blister may develop. For a few days, the area treated and surrounding skin may ooze, but within one week, the swelling will diminish and the skin will appear pink but eventually return to normal. Cryosurgery causes less scar formation and less post-operative infection than other methods of treatment. Depigmentation and prolonged redness may occur, but both problems are usually reversible.
2. If a blister forms, place small holes in the base of the blister with a pin and express the fluid by pushing down on the roof. This may need to be repeated several times per day for 3-4 days. If extensive blistering or swelling occurs, compress the area with Domeboro solution. This product may be purchased at the drug store. Mix in tablet or packet in a pint of lukewarm water. The solution will appear cloudy. Take a small cotton cloth, such as a piece of a T-shirt, place it in the solution, wring it out and apply the wet compress directly to the treatment site for 15 minutes. Remove this, let the skin dry to the air then apply a thin coat of antibiotic ointment. This process can be repeated 3-4 times per day in the early treatment.
3. Slight weeping or crusting will appear for 3-4 days. Keep the area clean with soap and water. It is permissible to shower or swim. Dry the treatment site gently with a towel and cover with a thin coat of an antibiotic ointment. If more comfortable or in areas of friction, cover loosely with a bandaid, however this is not necessary.
4. If you fail to gain relief from the above recommendations, or experience any additional problem, please feel free to contact the office for advice.
5. Be certain to keep your follow-up appointment to insure resolution of the problem or to have the area re-treated by this or other modalities.

*ACCEPTABLE TOPICAL ANTIBIOTICS: Mycitracin, Polysporin, Bacitracin