

Cryosurgical Treatment of Actinic Keratosis

Today, you were treated for actinic keratosis using a freezing technique called cryosurgery. Immediately after your treatment, your skin will redden and you will feel a stinging sensation in the treated area.

For a couple of hours after your cryosurgery, you might experience swelling in the treated area, and in rare cases, a small blister may develop. This is completely normal. Any swelling that occurs will be most noticeable if the treatment was applied around your eyes, on your forehead, or on your nose in the area between your eyes.

In some cases, the area of treated skin might be prone to developing sores for the first few days. Wash any sores that develop with soap and water. You should avoid applying dressings over these sores as much as possible. If necessary, however, the area can be protected using a small dressing. If a dressing is needed, we recommend that you cut a compress to fit the size of the sore and secure it using medical tape that is gentle on the skin. Do not use any covering or tight dressing.

In most cases, the treated area will heal nicely after 1–2 weeks, although a light-coloured or whitish mark might sometimes be left where the treatment was applied, since cryosurgery can affect the skin's pigment cells.