



## Cryosurgical Treatment of Basal Cell Carcinoma

Today, you have undergone cryosurgery to treat a basal cell carcinoma (skin cancer). Immediately after your treatment, your skin will redden and you will feel a stinging sensation in the treated area. You will also experience swelling in the area for a couple of hours after the procedure. This swelling 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, a fluid- or blood-filled blister may also form. This is completely normal.

Your wound might also weep for the first few days. If needed, change the dressing 2–3 times a day during the first few days following your treatment. Wash your wound with soap and water. When applying a dressing, cut a compress to fit the size of your wound and secure it using medical tape that is gentle on the skin. Do not use any covering or tight dressing. Once a scab begins to form, you should avoid using a dressing as much as possible. You can usually remove the dried scab after about one week.

Your type of cryosurgery wound will normally heal in around 4–6 weeks. In some cases, the healed skin in the treated area might appear as a light-coloured or whitish mark, since cryosurgery affects the skin's pigment cells. If your tumour is growing deep under the skin and so requires more aggressive cryosurgical treatment, a scar may form in the area afterwards. This is normal and is not a sign of any remaining tumour. In time, such scars will usually become fainter, thinner, flatter and softer.