What to Expect after Liquid Nitrogen Therapy ("Freezing")
Patient Education
Cutaneous Oncology

Warts

- The treated area(s) will be red and tender for up to 1 week after freezing.

- You may form a blister (which can have a bloody fluid) within 48 hours after freezing – generally you should leave this alone – this will flatten out and heal on its own over the next 1 to 2 weeks. Apply a Band-Aide to protect it from being injured.

- The warts may crust over and peel over 1 to 2 weeks after freezing, leaving behind a red base that may stay red for several weeks. You can apply an antibiotic ointment (Polysporin, Bactoroban) to heal speed healing.

- Sometimes it will take more than one freezing to completely treat individual warts.

Actinic Keratoses ("AK" or "Pre-Cancer")

- The treated area(s) will be red and tender for up to 1 week after freezing.

- The lesions should crust over and peel off 1 to 2 weeks after freezing, leaving behind a red base that may stay red for several weeks. You can apply an antibiotic ointment (Polysporin, Bactoroban) to heal speed healing.

- On rare occasions, you may form a blister within 48 hours after freezing (see above for treatment).

- Sometimes it will take more than one freezing to completely treat individual lesions.

If you have any questions, please call 650-498-6000. For clinical issues (i.e. fever, nausea or vomiting, etc.) choose option 5. This number will get you to the triage nurse who can direct your call to the appropriate provider.