

Warts and Molluscum:

Home care after treatment with liquid nitrogen

What are warts and molluscum?

Warts are rough bumps on the skin. Molluscum are small, smooth bumps on the skin. They are caused by a virus that infects the skin.



What is liquid nitrogen?

Liquid nitrogen is a very cold liquid that can be sprayed on the skin or put on with a Q-Tip®. It may be used to treat warts and molluscum.

How does the treatment work?

Liquid nitrogen is used to freeze the wart or molluscum. The freezing will cause the wart or molluscum and some of the surrounding skin to blister. Most often the blister forms 6 to 8 hours after the treatment.



Sometimes the wart may blister right away; others may never blister. In about 2 to 3 weeks, the blister will dry up and peel off. This will remove all or part of the wart or molluscum. More than one treatment may be needed. With more treatments you may see a better response. This is normal. If you have concerns about how the treatment is working, contact your child's doctor.

How does the treatment affect my child?

Your child will have some pain when the liquid nitrogen is put on. There may also be some pain once the blister is formed. The skin around the blister may look red and swollen. Sometimes the blister is filled with blood, but this is okay.

Follow-up care

You will need Polysporin® Ointment and Band-Aids®.

- Keep the area clean and dry.
- Polysporin® Ointment may be put on the area after the blister forms if it is red and sore. Cover the area with a Band-Aid®.

Special instructions

- Do **not** take the skin off the top of the blister.
- Tylenol® may be given for pain after the treatment. You may also give Tylenol® **before** your child's next treatment.
- Soak the area in cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. This can be done 3 to 4 times each day. If you cannot soak the area, use a cool washcloth instead.
- If a large blister is uncomfortable for your child, call the doctor or nurse for special instructions.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:

- A fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher.
- Pain that does not get better after taking Tylenol®.
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up