

WHEN YOU ARE TREATED FOR ACROCHORDON (SKIN TAG)



What is acrochordon (skin tag)?

Acrochordons, also called skin tags, are small benign skin tags that usually attach to the skin through a thin, raised stalk, or otherwise attach directly to the skin.

Skin tags are made up of collagen and emerge when extra cells grow in the top layers of the skin. Skin tags develop slowly over time when the skin is exposed to friction, such as between skin folds, particularly in the armpits, on eyelids, on the neck, below the chest or in the groin. Skin tags are not contagious.

Skin tags vary in appearance from brownish to skin-coloured, and in size from less than 2 mm to 5 cm in diameter. Skin tags may have smooth or irregular surfaces.

Skin tags are more prevalent in women and with increasing age. In addition, diabetics and/or obese individuals develop skin tags more frequently.

Some may experience itching or pain when skin tags get caught in jewellery or clothes. Moreover, some may perceive skin tags as cosmetically unsightly and seek treatment for it.

What is cryosurgery?

One of the most efficient therapies for removing skin tags is to destroy the targeted skin by freezing, also called cryosurgery. Cryosurgery has been used for treatment of skin changes for more than 100 years. Cryo is the Greek word for "cold", and surgery is derived from the Greek word kheirourgia meaning "working by hand".

Freezing the targeted skin without damaging the healthy skin below is possible because the thin top layer of skin is more sensitive to changes in temperature than the deeper layers of skin.



Treatment with cryosurgery

Hydrozid® is a cryosurgical treatment for skin tags, among other uses.

The treatment involves spraying the pressurised gas norflurane on the skin tag at a temperature of approx. -50°C, thereby destroying the infected skin layer.

Even cryosurgery may require repeated treatment. In these cases, you are recommended to receive treatment again after 1-2 weeks, depending on your therapist's assessment.

During treatment

There is no need for anaesthesia during treatment.

Hydrozid® will be sprayed directly on the skin tag. The frozen area will immediately be visible as a snow-white section. When the skin tag is no longer white, the area that was frozen will have thawed, and the treatment can be repeated. If you receive treatment for several skin tags, they can be treated at the same time. The treatment takes less than 30 seconds for each skin tag.

Treatment with such cold temperatures may cause a slight stinging or burning sensation while the skin tag is being frozen. This sensation will subside when treatment stops.

After treatment

The treated area may be slightly irritated, red, tender and swollen immediately after treatment. These symptoms are a natural part of wound healing. Small blisters may subsequently occur in the treated area in rare instances.

Keep the treated area clean by washing it daily with water and non-perfumed soap. You can protect the treated area with a plaster.

The newly formed skin in the treated area is thin, and as a result gets sunburned more quickly. Therefore, use sunscreen when you are out in daylight to avoid sunburn and permanent discoloration in the treated area.

Inform your therapist!

For a small number of patients, cryosurgery must be used with caution.

You must therefore let your therapist know if you:

- suffer from poor circulation, for instance due to diabetes.
- have been treated with adrenocortical hormone or inhaled steroids for a prolonged period of time.
- suffer from cryoglobulinemia, Raynaud's disease, cold urticaria or blood dyscrasias.