Wound Care Instructions for Cryosurgery

The area treated with liquid nitrogen will form a blister. You do not need to bandage the area until the blister breaks (which may be a few days.) When the blister breaks, begin daily dressing changes as follows:

1. You may take a shower or thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Clean wound with a Q-tip moistened with tap water.
3. Dry the wound with a dry Q-tip.
4. Apply Polysporin ointment or Bacitracin ointment. Do NOT use Neosporin ointment.
5. Cover the wound with a band-aid or a sterile non-stick gauze pad and micropore paper tape. Do NOT use medicated band-aids.
6. Healing could take anywhere from 2 to 4 weeks.

After treatment with liquid nitrogen there may be a burning sensation or pain that can last up to 24 hours. The discomfort may be relieved with Extra Strength Tylenol or similar pain relief medication.

It is an old wives tale that a wound heals better when it is exposed to air and allowed to dry out. The wound will heal faster with a better cosmetic result if it is kept moist with ointment and covered with a bandage. DO NOT LET THE WOUND DRY OUT.

Supplies Needed:
A) Q-tips
B) Polysporin Ointment or Bacitracin Ointment
C) Band-aids or non-stick gauze pads and paper tape.