

What To Expect After Laser Removal Of Skin Lesions

Recovery time depends on the location and number of lesions removed.

- Most people will be able to return to normal activities within 1 to 3 days.
- Healing takes 2 to 4 weeks.
- Scarring or in most cases, transient depigmentation (white splotch) may occur.

For men and women who have had genital warts removed, call your doctor for any of the following:

- Bleeding that lasts longer than 1 week
- A fever
- Severe pain
- Bad-smelling or yellowish discharge, which may indicate an infection

Avoid sexual intercourse until the treated area heals and soreness is gone (usually 1 to 3 weeks, depending on the size of the area treated).

Risks

Risks of surgery are:

- Bleeding.
- Infection. You may receive antibiotics at the time of the procedure, to reduce the risk of infection.
- Pain. You may need medicine for several days after the procedure.

Aftercare

Remove the bandage/band-aid (if applicable) after 1-3 days, when the localized bleeding and or the painful phase of inflammation subsides. Cover the area with triple-antibiotic ointment or Aquaphor® 3 to 5 times a day. Keep the area moist with ointment so that scabbing does not occur. If a scab forms, do not pick at it. Simply keep it moist with petroleum-based ointment, i.e. Vaseline®, or the above, till it dissolves.

What To Think About

Treating genital warts does not cure an infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes genital warts. The virus may remain in the body in an inactive state after warts are removed. A person treated for genital warts may still be able to spread the infection. Some experts say that you should consider yourself contagious for 4-6 months following the removal or treatment of the last lesion. Condoms may help reduce the risk of HPV infection, but they do not protect the entire genital area against skin-to-skin contact.