



Post-Procedure Care: Curettage and Desiccation

Curettage and Desiccation (C&D) is a surgical procedure commonly used in the treatment of some basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas. Skin cancers in general are softer than the surrounding healthy skin and therefore are able to be scraped away.

- First the local area of the skin cancer is anesthetized.
- Then, using a sharp rounded tool called accurate, the provider scrapes away the skin cancer.
- Finally, electricity is applied to the skin to colorize the area with heat.

The cancer is not cut out so margins are not examined microscopically but CND cure rates are similar to those of Excisions.

Care Instructions:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before changing your dressing
- Remove the old dressing, and wash the site with antibacterial soap and water
- Do not scrub the site
- After cleansing, apply Vaseline or Aquaphor to the area and bandage every day until the wound is healed.
- During normal healing of this type of wound you can expect to see a yellowish center with a red surrounding edge. This area will slowly decrease in size as your wound heals until it is completely healed over. The resulting scar will be round and either pink/red, white or purple

It can take up to 4 -6 weeks for your wound to heal completely in (2 - 3 months to completely heal on the lower extremities). Initially some oozing from the site is normal. The wound is healed when there is no longer a crust on the site or drainage on the bandage.