

Percutaneous cryoablation



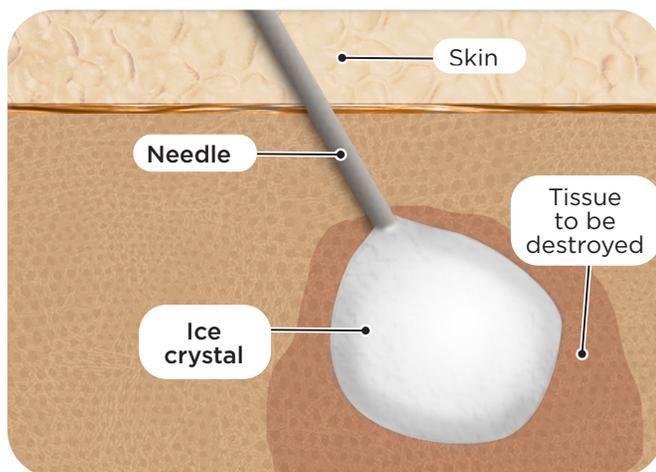
You'll soon be receiving a cryoablation treatment. This health sheet describes what it involves and reminds you what to do to make sure everything goes smoothly.

What does this treatment involve?

It's a treatment that uses cold (freezing) to remove tissue. Most often, it's used to remove a tumour or a malformation in a blood vessel.

A very fine needle is inserted into the tumour or blood vessel. A gas flows through the needle and makes the tip very cold. An ice crystal then forms and destroys the targeted tissues.

Percutaneous cryoablation



What is its main advantage?

It allows for treatment without surgery, affecting the surrounding tissue as little as possible.

Are there any risks?

Cryoablation generally doesn't pose a risk. However, sometimes it has to be repeated if there is still tissue to be destroyed.

What do I need to do to prepare?

- You must not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatories in the days before the treatment. **You'll be told over the phone when to stop taking them and if there are any other medications to avoid.**
- You must **not eat or drink after midnight before** the treatment. However, if you must take medication (and you've been permitted to do so), you can take it with a little water.
- If you smoke, it's advisable to stop 7 to 10 days before the treatment. If not, cut back as much as possible. Smoking slows wound healing and increases the risk of breathing problems after treatment.

For advice, read our health sheet [Quitting smoking before my operation.](#)

How is the treatment performed?

- It's most often done under general anesthesia (you're put to sleep).
- Using one or more needles, the radiologist destroys the targeted tissues. This is done with the assistance of medical imaging technologists, who observe the inside of the body using a CT scan or ultrasound. This ensures that the needles only touch the tissue to be destroyed, with perfect precision.
- After the treatment, you're taken to the recovery room. You'll stay there until you're wide awake.
- The only traces of the treatment will be **small needle scars** on your skin.

Will I have any side effects?

- The most common are a nausea in the evening of the treatment and a lack of appetite for a few days.
- You might feel a little pain. A painkiller such as acetaminophen (for example, Tylenol) usually helps relieve it. If needed, you'll be prescribed stronger painkillers.

When will I be able to leave the hospital?

You'll be discharged the same evening or the next morning.

You're not allowed to drive until the day after you leave the hospital. This is because you'll be under the influence of a medication that causes drowsiness (a sedative).

Plan for a family member or friend to take you home.

If no one is available, you can take a taxi, but don't use public transportation.

Are there any precautions to be taken **AFTER** the treatment?

Yes, read the fact sheet [Returning home after percutaneous cryoablation](#).

What follow-up will I have?

In the weeks that follow, you'll need to have an imaging examination (scan or MRI). The Radiology Department will contact you to schedule an appointment. This is to check that the treatment was effective.



What if I need to reschedule my appointment?

Call the Radiology Department:

☎ 514 890-8450

Who should I contact if I have questions?

You can call the nurse in the Radiology Department, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outside of these hours, please leave a message.

☎ 514-890-8000, ext. _____



USEFUL RESOURCES

Other CHUM health fact sheets are available. Ask your care team which fact sheets can help you.



You can also read them online. chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante

The content of this document in no way replaces the advice of your healthcare professional.

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