



St. Louis Dermatology Center

Electrodesiccation and Curettage

Electrodesiccation and curettage (EDC) is frequently used by dermatologists to treat Basal Cell Carcinomas (BCCs) with variable cure rates. The procedure involves anesthetizing the lesional and perilesional skin, followed by curettage and electrodesiccation applied in two to three repetitions to the lesion with highest cure rates noted when a substantial peripheral margin around the initial curettage is employed. High 5-year cure rates (of up to 98.8%) have been obtained after EDC of primary, non-fibrosing BCCs. Cosmetic outcome following EDC on the trunk and extremities generally results in flat white macules or patches but can lead to atrophic, hypertrophic, or keloidal scars. For more information about basal cell carcinomas, visit <http://www.dermnetnz.org/lesions/basal-cell-carcinoma.html>

WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

A scab will form over the treated area. The wound may take 3 to 6 weeks to heal, depending on the size of the area treated. Good wound care may help the scar fade with time. Wash around the wound with clean water 2 times a day. Don't use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol, which can slow healing. You may cover the wound with a thin layer of petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, and a non-stick bandage. Apply more petroleum jelly and replace the bandage as needed.