

# Treatment with Silver Nitrate

## After care information for patients

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## Podiatry Department

## **What is silver nitrate?**

Silver nitrate is a chemical which is used to treat some skin conditions such as verrucae (warts) and wounds with excessive fragile skin which may be prone to bleeding.

Silver nitrate can be helpful in managing these conditions, but it is not guaranteed to get rid of them altogether.

It is carefully applied directly to the skin by an experienced Podiatrist.

## **What treatment have I had today?**

A silver nitrate 95% stick was used in your treatment today.

## **What are the side effects?**

It is normal for some patients to experience some mild discomfort when it is applied. This usually stops quickly. Your Podiatrist will check that you are comfortable before your appointment is finished.

Silver nitrate can cause staining of the skin or nail where it has been applied. It can appear white to begin with but turns to dark grey or black after a short time. This is normal and it will go away with time, usually over a period of days or weeks.

## **Care at home afterwards**

If discomfort continues after your treatment or you start to develop severe pain, then you may be having an allergic reaction. Do not ignore it. You should follow the steps below immediately:

- Take off any dressings that have been applied to your foot
- Prepare a clean basin with cool water and add 2-3 tablespoons of salt
- Soak your painful foot in the footbath for around 15 minutes or until the pain goes away
- If the pain does not go away, you should contact the Podiatry Department or the Out of Hours service using the contact details on the back of this leaflet.

We encourage you to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have with your Podiatrist.

Please keep these Podiatry contact details safe:

**Patients treated in clinic – 0131 536 1627**

**Patients treated by a podiatrist at home, in hospital  
or in a nursing home – 0131 446 4631**

**Out of hours, please contact NHS 24 on 111**