

# Cryotherapy (Cryoablation)

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/patients/treatments/cryotherapy-cryoablation> on 06/06/2026

Cryotherapy or cryoablation (Cryo is from the Greek for frost or extreme cold. Ablation refers to removal or elimination.) is the use of extreme cold to kill tumor cells. A probe containing an extremely cold fluid is placed inside/on the area to be treated and the tumor (or abnormal growth) is frozen. Cryotherapy can be performed during a open (fully invasive) surgery or the probes can be inserted through the skin in a minimally invasive procedure. The liquid does not enter the tumor, but the rod is cold enough to freeze the tumor.

**Cryotherapy freezes and kills cancer cells and any nearby normal cells.**

**The cold liquid is not actually placed into the tumor. It is inside a rod. The rod may have to be inserted and removed several times.**

Cryotherapy is used to treat several different pre-cancerous and cancerous conditions, including: kidney cancer<sup>1, 2</sup>, lung cancer<sup>1</sup>, esophageal cancer<sup>3</sup>, liver cancer<sup>4</sup>, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN)<sup>5</sup>, prostate cancer<sup>6</sup>, retinoblastoma<sup>7</sup> and skin neoplasms<sup>8</sup>.

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