

Pre-Operative Instructions

Prior to surgery:

1. If you take Coumadin, Plavix or therapeutic aspirin, please continue these medications. You may experience slightly more bleeding, bruising, or swelling, but it is important that you continue these medications. If you are taking a baby aspirin preventatively, you may stop this 10-14 days prior to surgery with your primary doctor's permission.
2. No non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication for up to two weeks prior to surgery. This includes Alka-Seltzer, Anacin, Ascriptin, Bufferin, Empirin, Excedrin, Anasaid, many cold tablets and all products containing ibuprofen, including Advil, Motrin, Nuprin, Relafen, Aleve, etc. **Tylenol is OK.**
3. Please continue to take all other prescribed medications according to your usual schedule unless otherwise instructed.
4. No herbal preparations for up to two weeks before surgery, including ginkgo biloba, ginseng, St. John's Wort, garlic tablets, supplemental vitamin E, etc.
5. No alcoholic beverages for 3 days prior to surgery.
6. Gather the following supplies for post-operative dressings:
 - a. An antibiotic ointment
 - b. Cotton tipped applicators
 - c. Tape (we prefer paper tape)
 - d. Non-stick, plastic coated gauze (such as Telfa "Ouchless")

On the day of surgery:

1. Shower and shampoo the morning of your surgery (you will need to keep your bandage dry and will not be able to shower for 48 hours after).
2. Eat a good breakfast unless advised otherwise.
3. If an antibiotic was prescribed for you to take preoperatively, please take this one hour prior to your appointment time.
4. No makeup please if your procedure is on the face.
5. Wear a button or zip down shirt rather than one that slips over your head.
6. The Mohs procedure may require all day to complete. Bring something to read, laptop, or something to occupy your time. Don't plan on any other appointments or activities for the day. Please do not bring young children with you. Mohs surgery takes an average of 6-8 hours to complete, depending on your skin cancer.
7. Due to patient privacy concerns and limited space in our waiting room, we request a maximum of one family member or significant other to accompany you to the office for your procedure.
8. Plan for someone to be able to drive you home after the procedure if needed.
9. Arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled surgery time whenever possible.

Please note: there is no cafeteria in the building. Please bring something to snack on or plan to get food while you are here. We do have a refrigerator and microwave for your convenience and there are many nearby restaurants. If you are going to another surgeon to be repaired on the same day as your Mohs surgery, please follow their directions concerning medications, eating, and drinking.

Feel free to contact us with questions! (636) 300-9596