

PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOHS SURGERY

*****Please consult your Primary Physician and/or Cardiologist before stopping any prescribed medication.**

1. The Duration of your visit will depend on the extent and complexity of your skin cancer. After surgical removal, we process the tissue in the lab, which takes at least an hour. At that time the tissue will be analyzed, and if the margins show no remaining cancer, the necessary means to repair the skin will be performed. If cancer is still present at the margin, the process will be repeated until the surgical margins are clear.
2. Please cancel all activities for the day of surgery and possibly longer. You will receive postoperative instructions about how to care for your surgery site before you leave our office.
3. For patients on blood thinners such as aspirin, **plavix, or warfarin (coumadin)**, we generally **do not require you to stop these medications**. If you prefer to stop taking them, please contact the doctor that started you on the medication before stopping it or call our office if you have questions. If you are on an aspirin just for prevention, you can stop 1 week prior to surgery.
4. If you have had to take antibiotics before dental procedures or other surgeries or have had any of the following: heart valve surgery, congenital heart defect, mitral valve prolapse, joint replacement surgery, or placement of other internal medical devices (arterial or venous grafts, cerebral shunts), please call the physician's office that performed your surgery and ask them if they would recommend that you take an antibiotic prior to your surgery. If you are unable to get in touch with them, please call our office at least **TWO DAYS** before your surgery so that we can call in antibiotics if necessary.
5. These medications should be discontinued **five (5) days prior** surgery if possible: **Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, and Nuprin), Naproxen (Naprosyn and Aleve), and other Aspirin (Ecotrin, Fiorinal and Cafergot) containing products**. Also avoid: **Alcohol, Ginkgo, Ginseng, Fish Oil, and Vitamin E** supplements for five (5) days prior.

If you need pain medication, please take **TYLENOL** (acetaminophen). If you are allergic to Tylenol or unable to take it for other reasons, please notify us so that we might arrange for a suitable substitute.

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1. Eat a light breakfast or lunch.
2. Take your regularly prescribed medications. See above instructions for exceptions.
3. We recommend a shower the evening or morning before surgery, and freshly laundered clothes to help reduce the chances of you getting an infection. Wear a shirt that buttons up the front.
4. Please call our office and ask to speak to one of our nurses if you get sick before the time of surgery.
5. You will receive a phone call from this office confirming your scheduled surgery.