



Mohs Surgery Pre-Op Instructions

1. Please stop all aspirin or aspirin containing products (Alka Seltzer, Excedrin, Anacin) and all non steroidal anti inflammatory medications (Motrin, Advil, Naproxen, Aleve and Ibuprofen) for 5 days prior to surgery. This will reduce bleeding and bruising.
2. If you take blood thinning agents like coumadin, warfarin or heparin, because you have had a stroke or heart attack, please let us know so we may discuss it. We can still proceed with surgery; however, we will need an INR blood test either from your PCP or we can order it within 1 week of your surgery date.
3. Apply Arnica Gel (can be purchased over the counter) to the surgical site 4 times a day for 3 days prior to the surgery. This is used to reduce bruising, swelling and or local reaction.
4. We recommend a shower the morning of your surgery. You will need to keep your surgical site clean and dry for 24 to 48 hours post-op.
5. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a light jacket or sweater as the surgical rooms are kept very cool, around 70 degrees.
6. Please do not apply any makeup, perfume, aftershave or any lotions to the area around or near your surgical site.
7. Most patients do not require pre op medication, however if you have anxiety or are anxious about your procedure, please let us know and we can prescribe something for you. Very rarely, we can also offer medication here in the office.
8. If you normally require antibiotics prior to dental work, please let us know and we are happy to call an Rx in for you. Medical conditions that require pre-op antibiotics are artificial heart valves, heart murmurs, artificial joints, and related problems.
9. We administer local anesthetic usually with lidocaine (Xylocaine) with a small amount of epinephrine. If you are allergic to lidocaine or epinephrine, please let us know. The only discomfort you will feel during the procedure is the administration of the local anesthetic which is very brief.
10. The surgical procedure should be painless. Rarely do patients need post op medication - Tylenol or acetaminophen is usually adequate. Stronger pain medications may be prescribed as needed.
11. On the day of your surgery, please expect to spend 2-4 hours with us while we ensure your tumor is fully removed. We will provide refreshments and light snacks. Rarely, some patients require extra attention and your surgery time may be delayed and or you may be held up to 6 hours, we will do everything in our power to ensure we work efficiently and effectively. We appreciate your understanding.
12. We will explain the surgery and you will have the opportunity to ask questions on the day of your procedure.
13. We do not administer sedatives or IV anesthesia in the office so your ability to drive should not be impaired. However, it is often reassuring and comforting to bring a companion with you. He or she is welcome to wait in our office, and have a refreshment or snack during your surgery. However, for safety reasons, only the patient is allowed in the surgery room.
14. Wound care instructions are given to you at the time of surgery, but generally the wound remains bandaged for 24 hours post surgery. You will be provided a take home care kit, but please ensure you have antibacterial soap like Hibiclens or Cetaphil at home to cleanse the wound. You can get your supplies at the local pharmacy.
15. Follow up appointments for wound checks and suture removal are scheduled 7-14 days post surgery. If you will be traveling out of the area during this time, you will need to make proper arrangements to have your sutures removed by a qualified medical professional.
16. We ask that you take it easy for 24 hours post surgery, you may return to normal activity the next day based on how you feel. We suggest you avoid vigorous activity or social engagements for 24 to 48 hours. We ask that you avoid the pool or hot tub for 3 days post op.
17. Kindly provide a 48 hour notice for any cancellation or rescheduling requests. If you fail to do so, you will be responsible for a \$75 surgical change fee. We reserve this time for you and you only.

Thank you and we look forward to taking good care of you!

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office 480-704-7546 and we are glad to assist.