

Mohs Surgery Preoperative Information

*The length of time required to perform a Mohs procedure is highly variable depending on the location, size and characteristics of the cancer being removed. Plan to be here for at least four hours. Most procedures will be completed within this timeframe however they may occasionally take longer. Surgery times are approximate. We do our best to remain on time, but surgery is unpredictable, and your surgery may be delayed on occasion by up to an hour. Do not schedule appointments, work, or social events later that day. Depending on the extent of the surgery and the lab time, it may take several hours just to remove the cancer and do the pathology. Another 1-2 hours may be needed for stitching. You will have some downtime while we are waiting for slides to be prepared, so please bring a book, crosswords, knitting, etc. We also have wireless internet.

*The entire procedure is performed with local numbing medicine/anesthesia (lidocaine). You will not be put to sleep for the procedure, so please eat breakfast or lunch before your appointment and take all medications you usually take unless told not to. There will be a few snacks available, but if you want to eat/drink anything else feel free to bring that with you.

*We recommend bringing a support person with you to your appointment no matter how small the lesion may seem. After surgery, there will be some pain. We usually recommend acetaminophen (Tylenol) combined with Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) for pain because together they are very effective (more than either alone). Following the procedure, patients are often tired; and we strongly recommend someone else driving home. Plan not to be alone for at least 12 hours after surgery, if possible.

*Plan to take it easy for several days after your surgery. We recommend no heavy lifting or exercise for 48 hours after surgery (due to the increased risk of bleeding). Avoid strenuous exercise for the remainder of that 1st week. If possible, take at least 2 days off from work because you will be wearing a bulky bandage and may have swelling/bruising for several days afterward.

*If you are taking Vitamin E, garlic, ginkgo, or ginseng, please stop taking these one week prior to surgery. Additionally, if you take baby aspirin *for preventative reasons only*, please stop taking it for 10 days before surgery and don't resume taking it until 2 days after surgery. All of these can cause bleeding. If you take aspirin for therapeutic reasons (history of stroke, heart attack, stents, blood clots, etc.) you should continue taking unless otherwise advised by your doctor. You may be asked about other blood thinners but do not stop them on your own.

*Physician assistants and a Mohs Surgery fellow often work with the surgeon. They often perform the numbing/local anesthesia prior to surgery, assist the surgeon with

the Mohs procedure, etc. If they perform removals or suturing, they will have experience and are very skilled. The surgeon will be overseeing the entire procedure.

*Wear comfortable slip-on shoes to your appointment if you have them. Comfortable clothes that button and do not need to be pulled over your head are also a good idea. Do not wear your favorite shirt or white/light clothing if you can avoid it.

*If you would like, bring your own music (iPod with headphones, etc.) for listening during the procedure.

For additional information and a **video** on Mohs surgery, please visit the following website from the American College of Mohs Surgery: www.mohscollege.org.

Here's an additional **video** from the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery: www.asds.net/Mohs-Surgery-For-Skin-Cancer.

Have you had any heart valves replaced or repaired? _____

Have you had any joint replacements in past 2 years? _____

Do you need any antibiotics prior to surgery (dental work)? _____

Do you have an implanted cardiac pacemaker or defibrillator? _____

Do you have a cochlear implant, deep brain stimulator, or other implanted electrical devices? _____

Are you taking any blood thinners? Which ones? _____

Do you have any bleeding disorders? _____

Do you have any medication allergies? _____

Have you agreed to following the surgeon's recommendation of minimal activity for 24-48 hours following your surgery? _____

Your appointment is scheduled for: _____ at _____ AM/PM.

You will be seeing: _____

Patient name: _____ DOB: _____