

MOHS SURGERY REMINDERS

This procedure generally takes 2-3 hours. The surgery site will be numbed locally. The first portion of the surgery usually takes about 10 minutes and then there is a 30-40 minute waiting period while the doctor checks the pathology. If any cancer remains, the surgeon will know exactly where to go back and take another section. The majority of time will be spent waiting to make sure the pathology is clear. Once the physician confirms that the cancer no longer remains in the surgery site, he will then repair the site and suture the area closed. The sutures will generally be removed by a nurse in our office within 7-10 days.

On the day of the surgery, please follow these guidelines:

- o You may eat breakfast
- o We recommend NO caffeine the morning of the procedure (decaffeinated coffee is fine)
- o No alcoholic beverages 24-48 hours prior to the procedure

Please stop any blood thinners prior to surgery, **ONLY** after it has been cleared to do so with the physician that prescribed the blood thinner. Examples: Aspirin, Plavix, anti-inflammatories (Aleve, Motrin, Ibuprofen) and arthritis medications all need to be stopped **1 week prior to surgery.**

Coumadin should be stopped **3 days prior to surgery.** It is okay to continue Tylenol.

Please discontinue use of Vitamin E and/or Fish Oil at least **1 week prior to surgery,** as it can thin the blood. You may continue to take a multi-vitamin.

Medications will be called in to your pharmacy prior to the surgery. The nurse will call and notify you when this has been done so that you may pick them up. There may be an oral antibiotic, antibiotic ointment and pain medication. All medications will have instructions on the bottle. Not all procedures require the antibiotic ointment. The oral antibiotic is to help prevent any infection. **The antibiotic ointment is for staph bacteria that many people carry in their nose. You will need to put a small amount of the ointment on a Q-tip and then put the medication just inside the tip of your nose. This should be started 3 days prior to your surgery.**

The mild pain medication should only be taken after the surgery, as needed. You may also take Tylenol.

Please do not apply ointments, lotions or cosmetics to the area on which the procedure will be done.

Your comfort and the successful outcome of your procedure are always our top priority. This is why much planning and preparation precedes every surgery the doctor performs. We allocate a significant portion of our schedule exclusively for your procedure. As such, we ask that you make every effort to keep your appointment as scheduled and to be on time. If you have to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please give us the courtesy of 48 hours' notice, so that we can accommodate other patients.

If you have any questions about your upcoming MOHS procedure, please call us at (865) 233-7351 and ask to speak with a nurse who will be happy to assist you.