



Mohs Preoperative Care

You are scheduled for **Mohs Micrographic Surgery** for the treatment of Skin Cancer. Mohs Surgery, as it is more commonly known, is a very effective procedure for small and larger skin cancers. It combines the highest cure rate with the smallest possible surgical defect for repair.

ONE WEEK PRIOR TO SURGERY

ASPIRIN

- If not prescribed, please do not take **aspirin for at least one week prior to surgery**: Examples include Aspirin, or products that contain Aspirin (e.g., Alka-Seltzer, Excedrin).
- If a physician has prescribed Aspirin or products containing Aspirin for a medical condition, you may continue.
- *NOTE: Tylenol, or its generic form, acetaminophen, is fully approved for use prior to surgery.*

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS PRESCRIBED ANTICOAGULANT / ANTIPLATELET MEDICATIONS

- If you have been prescribed anticoagulant / antiplatelet medications (sometimes referred to as blood thinners) by your physician, **DO NOT STOP** those medications prior to this surgery, **UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY YOUR PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN TO DO SO**. These medications may include: Warfarin (also known by the brand names *Coumadin, Jantoven, Marevan, Uniwarfin*), Pradaxa, Plavix, or later generation medicines.
- In some instances, your physician may approve temporary discontinuance of the anticoagulant prior to the surgery, though we do not require it.

SUPPLEMENTS

- **To protect against raised blood pressure and increased bleeding**, we ask that one week before your surgery you stop or minimize the use of all herbal supplements, such as *Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Garlic, Ginkgo Biloba, St. John's Wort, Ginseng, and Fish Oil* capsules.

Please see reverse side of page.

DAY OF SURGERY

- **Bathe or shower** the evening prior to *or morning of* surgery with a bath soap and rinse thoroughly. This should include the area adjacent to and the site intended for surgery. Also wash your hair.
- **If surgery site is on your face:** If applicable, do not wear makeup. If applicable, shave your face (i.e., beard, mustache).
- On the day of surgery, you should **eat breakfast**.
- You may **take pre-approved prescription medications** per your usual routine.
- **Wear comfortable clothing.** Be sure to wear a button-up or loose-fitting shirt and flat shoes.
- **If you are diabetic or have specific dietary requirements,** please plan to bring specific food or drink with you.
- **Please arrive 15 minutes early** for your appointment.
- **Please come prepared to possibly spend the day with us for your surgery.** Appointments may take several hours. However, the completion time of your surgery is not precisely predictable. Bringing a book, iPad, crossword puzzles, etc. can help pass the time.
- **We encourage you to bring your own lunch.** We will provide light snacks and drinks to keep you comfortable during the day.
- **Bring a friend or family member** for support and assistance after surgery. If that person needs to be telephoned to pick you up when your surgery is completed, please let us know so that we may assist you. Our policy requires all surgery patients be discharged to a responsible adult or legal guardian.
- Our **procedure does not require general anesthesia.** You are not “put to sleep” for the surgery. We will make you as comfortable as possible during the surgery with local anesthetic, possible mild oral sedative relaxants, and our compassionate and experienced care staff.

TOBACCO USE

- **Tobacco** use (and particularly cigarette smoking) has been shown to be a cause of poor healing, infection, and postoperative complications which occur at a higher rate in users than non-users of tobacco.
- **We strongly urge you to consider tobacco cessation or significant decrease in usage two weeks prior and two weeks after surgery** to allow your body the best healing possible. If you would like medical help or referral to a smoking cessation program, we will be glad to assist you.

While Mohs Surgery offers the highest cure rate, no treatment can be guaranteed effective. Therefore, follow-up care and checkups are important. This information is outlined in the patient education sheet entitled, “*Post Operative Care: Good Healing, Good Health, & Follow-Up Examinations*”, which is included in this packet.

We look forward to seeing you and providing the best care possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (520) 795-7729.