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Skin Cancer Surgery Center
A Medical Corporation

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY PATIENT INFORMATION

You are scheduled to have a skin cancer removed via Mohs micrographic surgery. The Mohs procedure provides the highest cure rate of all skin cancer treatments, with a five-year cure rate of 98.6% for tumors which have not been previously treated. There are several important issues regarding your upcoming procedure, which are summarized as follows:

1. You must have a flexible schedule on the day of your surgery, as the duration of the procedure is variable and based on the involvement of your skin cancer. It is best to plan on being in the office for the entire day, although many procedures may be completed by mid-day.
2. Plan on returning one to two days after your surgery for your first dressing change, and five to seven days after your surgery for suture removal.
3. Inform the doctor if you are taking aspirin. If you are taking aspirin for preventive measures only, the aspirin is typically discontinued ten days prior to the procedure. If you are taking aspirin under the direction of your cardiologist or internist for an underlying medical condition (such as a prior heart attack, heart surgery, coronary stent placement, or a stroke), please check with that physician prior to holding the aspirin. If necessary, the Mohs procedure will be performed while you remain on the aspirin. When held, aspirin is typically resumed two days after your surgery.
4. Inform the doctor if you are taking Coumadin (warfarin). The Mohs procedure will be performed while you remain on your Coumadin. However, it is important that we obtain your most recent coagulation labs/blood work prior to your surgery. Please have your laboratory fax a copy of your most recent labs.
5. Avoid Motrin (ibuprofen), or other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications for one day prior to your procedure.
6. If your surgery site is on your scalp or close to your ear, you may not be able to have your hair trimmed for several weeks. Please plan accordingly. It is also helpful on the day of the procedure if hair around the surgery site is trimmed.
7. Have your normal breakfast the morning of your procedure, but avoid any caffeinated beverages.
8. Take your regular medications the morning of the procedure (with the exception of aspirin). If you require an afternoon dose of your prescription medications, please bring these medications with you on the day of your surgery. If you are taking a medication to control your blood pressure, please bring this medication with you (even if you only typically take a morning dose.)
9. As your procedure may extend through the lunch hour, it is recommended that you bring a bag lunch. Snacks, drinks, and lunchtime soup will be provided by the office.
10. For most patients, it is recommended that you have a relative or friend drop you off on the morning of your surgery, and that they be available to pick you up at the end of the procedure. The office will notify your transportation prior to the completion of your procedure.
11. Be prepared to wear a bandage and to have some degree of swelling at the surgical site for up to seven or more days after the procedure. Have ice packs on hand.

If you have any additional questions regarding your upcoming surgical procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the office at (925) 932-7704.

▶ Board Certified,
*American Board of
Dermatology*

▶ Associate Member,
*American College of Mohs
Micrographic Surgery and
Cutaneous Oncology*

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*Accreditation Association
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