

You are scheduled for Mohs surgery / Wider excision with frozen section margin control.

Please read the following information. This letter explains some of the process that you will experience before, during, and after your surgery. If after reading this letter you still have any questions, please call our office at (515) 241-2000.

Preparation

We suggest stopping all NSAID medication such as Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Vitamin E, fish oil 7 – 10 days prior your surgery unless medically necessary as advised by your doctor.

Please continue taking any prescribed blood thinners such as warfarin, Plavix, and Xarelto. If possible, patients on warfarin may want to have an INR check 48 hours prior to surgery. INR's >3 may have increased risk for severe bleeding.

Aspirin is generally ok to continue. However, if you are taking this medication daily without a history of clotting disorders, heart attack, or stroke, consult with your primary care provider about discontinuing for surgery.

Patients that have had an artificial joint or heart valve replacement within the last 2 years will require oral antibiotics 1 hour prior to surgery to prevent heart valve/joint infection. If you have received an artificial joint over 2 years ago, prophylactic antibiotics are no longer indicated.

If you still have questions concerning these medications, or any medication that you are taking, please contact your primary care provider or specialist for further guidance.

If you need to take an antibiotic prior to surgical or dental procedures, please make arrangements with your physician to order it and have it available to you prior to your surgery appointment. On the morning of your surgery, it is important that you eat a normal breakfast and that you take all your regular medications unless otherwise directed by our office. Also please bring a list of the medications that you are currently taking.

The Procedure

Information regarding MOHS surgery can be found in the enclosed brochure. The surgery is performed in our office using a local anesthetic which is injected around the skin cancer site. MOHS surgery is a process of removing layers of skin at this site. You should expect approximately 30-40 minutes for each layer removal. After a layer has been removed, a slide is prepared for analysis by your doctor. The slide processing time usually takes an additional 30-60 minutes. During this time, we will have you relax in our waiting area.

If removal of additional skin layers is required, we will repeat the process. Longer stays may be necessary depending on the number of layers that need to be removed.

Please do not make plans or other appointments on the day of your surgery. The procedure typically lasts 1 – 2 hours but may take up to 4 – 5 hours if multiple layers are needed. Most of the time needed for this procedure involves lab processing of the excised tissue. It is helpful to have a book, iPad, phone, or other form of entertainment while waiting between layers. It is helpful to have someone available to drive you home so that you may relax after your surgery.

Recovery

Although we can repair most surgeries in our office, there may be wounds or medical conditions that would require us to refer you to another specialist. The type of repair will be based on the complexity of your case. If a referral repair is required, your appointment may not be scheduled the same day. Written instructions on caring for your surgery site will be provided.

Please plan on minimal and reduced levels of activity for at least 2 days and up to 1 week after surgery. Activities we advise against include yoga, intensive group fitness, running races/marathons, lifting heavy objects (usually no more than 10 - 20 pounds) and work around the house for 48 hours.

Sincerely,

The Providers and Staff of Dermatology, P.C.