



ZALADONIS
DERMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATES

DERMATOLOGY AND DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

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Mohs Surgery Preoperative Instructions

Mohs surgery is an advanced and effective treatment for certain types of skin cancer. It combines the surgical removal of the tumor with the immediate microscopic examination of the tumor and its roots. This process allows for the immediate identification, removal, and analysis of the entire tumor layer-by-layer until the cancer is completely gone.

Day of Surgery Checklist:

- Plan to be in the office for 3-5 hours for the surgery.
- Please avoid wearing any make-up or moisturizers on the day of surgery.
- You may bring a family member or friend. Having someone drive you to and from your surgical appointment is best. You may have bandages or swelling that obstruct your vision. Your driver may wait with you, or we can call for them to pick you up following surgery.
- Wear an old T-shirt or button-down shirt; you are okay if it becomes soiled. Bring a sweater, as the office can be cool.
- Eat as you usually would on the day of surgery. If you are scheduled to go to another physician for reconstruction, you may not be allowed to eat. (*Follow their instructions.*) You can bring a drink or snack with you. There are light refreshments in the private Mohs waiting room.
- Take your usual prescription medications the day of surgery and bring any additional medication that is you require during the day.

If you take blood thinners: Aspirin, Aggrenox (Aspirin extended-release Dipyridamole), Agrylin (Anagrelide), Arixtra (Fondaparinux), Brilinta (Ticagrelor), Coumadin (Warfarin), Effient (Prasugrel), Eliquis (Apixaban), Jantoven (Warfarin Sodium), Plavix (Clopidogrel), Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate), Xarelto (Rivaroxaban), etc. **continue your regular regimen unless you have been instructed otherwise.**



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- ~ If you require a preoperative antibiotic, please take it one hour before your appointment.
- ~ You may want to bring something for entertainment, i.e., a book or iPad
- ~ Alcohol increases your tendency to bleed. It is best to avoid alcohol two days before and two days after surgery.
- ~ Tobacco/Cigarettes:
Smoking impairs wound healing and decreases the survival of flaps and grafts. At the minimum, please decrease your smoking to 1/2 pack a day two weeks prior and two weeks following surgery.

After Surgery Expectations:

- You will require a bandage following surgery, may have to limit activities such as exercise and household duties, and may experience pain or discomfort at the surgical site. In almost all cases, stitches will be required to repair the site, and you will need the stitches removed in 7-14 days. It is best to remain in the local area until the stitches are removed.
- Plan to take at least the day of surgery and the day following surgery off from work. If you have a labor-intensive job or require heavy lifting, you may need to take several days off.

Please call us with any questions or concerns you may have. Notify us if there is any significant change in your health, a rapid growth in your tumor, or if you need to reschedule your appointment. You must give a minimum of 24hr—notice of cancellation to avoid incurring a cancellation fee.

For additional information about Mohs surgery: www.skincancermohssurgery.org