

MARIETTA DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.A.

PRE-MOHS SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆If you notice a significant growth in the size of the lesion between the time ◆ we see you and the scheduled date for surgery, please notify the office so we may re-evaluate the area.

You have been scheduled for Mohs Micrographic Surgery for skin cancer. There are several things you need to do to prepare:

1. Please let us know if you take any prescription or non-prescription blood thinners:

If you have been prescribed Coumadin (warfarin), Plavix (clopidogrel), Ticlid (ticlopidine), aspirin, Vitamin E, or any other prescription blood thinner, please CONTINUE these medications!

At the pre-op visit, we will discuss whether or not you should stop any of your medications prior to surgery, so **DO NOT STOP ANY PRESCRIBED MEDICINES UNLESS DIRECTED BY DR. FRIEDMAN!**

2. Please discontinue the following medications 10 days prior to surgery: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), Gingko Biloba, Advil, Aleve, Alka Seltzer, BC powder, Clinoril, Emprin, Equagesic, Excedrin, Fiorinal, Goody's, Ibuprophen, Motrin, Naprosyn, Norgesic, Nuprin, Percodan, Trilisate)

Tylenol is o.k. to take.

3. If you normally take an antibiotic prior to dental work (in other words, require antibiotic prophylaxis), please bring this to our attention so that there is no delay in your surgery.
4. Avoid alcohol for 48 hours prior to surgery.
5. On the morning of surgery:
 - a. Eat a light breakfast (and lunch, if surgery is in the afternoon)

- b. Please do not take your fluid pills (Lasix, furosemide, etc.) that morning. Take them when you arrive home after surgery.
 - c. Take your daily medications (except, for those medications described above you've discussed with Dr. Friedman)
 - d. Wear comfortable loose fitting clothing but nothing that you pull over your head, as this may interfere with your post-operative dressing. (You may want to bring a jacket to wear in the waiting room as our office is often kept very cool).
 - e. If surgery involves your face, do not wear any cosmetics/makeup.
 - f. Shower and shampoo before surgery, as your wound and initial dressing have to remain dry for approximately 24 hours after surgery.
 - g. Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled surgery time.
 - h. You may want to bring a family member or friend to wait with you and drive you home. Once you are admitted to our operating suite, your family member/friend may wait for you in our waiting room.
6. Please cancel all activities for the day of surgery. Once the surgery is completed, wound care and post-operative instructions will be reviewed with you.
7. These are items you may want to purchase before the day of surgery so you will not need to look for them after your procedure:
1. **Hydrogen peroxide** – you will mix this 50/50 with tap water to cleanse the surgical area.
 2. **Q-tips**
 3. **2X2 or 4X4 sterile gauze pads**
 4. **Non-stick gauze pads (brand name: Telfa) or Band-Aids if the site is small.**
 5. **Aquaphor** – Vaseline ointment **or Bacitracin**
 6. **Paper tape** (brand-name: Micropore)
 7. **Bags of frozen peas or corn** which can be used as ice packs. You can refreeze these after each use but discard and do not eat them after refreezing.
8. You will need to return to have the wound checked (and have any non-dissolving stitches removed) in 1-3 weeks. This will be determined by your physician.
9. If you need to cancel your surgical appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may accommodate another patient.

10. Surgery Expectations:

- a) Plan on wearing a bandage for 7-30 days
- b) There may be some bruising or swelling around the stitches which may last up to a week or more.
- c) Plan on avoiding strenuous physical activity until sutures are removed or as determined by your physician
- d) Complete healing of the scar may take 6-18 months
- e) During the first few months the site may feel thick, swollen or lumpy, and there may be some redness, tenderness, and numbness.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at (770) 422-1013.

rev. 03/07