

Things to know prior to your Mohs surgery

- If you take Coumadin, Plavix, aspirin or another prescription blood thinner, we recommend you stay on that medication unless otherwise suggested by the prescribing physician. DO NOT STOP THESE MEDICATIONS ON YOUR OWN.
- Avoid alcohol for 24 hours prior to surgery and do not smoke or chew tobacco 24 hours prior to surgery or after 2 weeks after surgery, as this will interfere with healing.
- On the morning of surgery, eat a good breakfast and take all your daily medications. Bring any medications that need to be taken throughout the day.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early for your appointment.
- You will need to avoid heavy lifting and vigorous activity for up to 2-3 weeks after your surgery.
- If surgery involves your face, DO NOT apply any cosmetics or makeup the morning of your surgery
- Be prepared to spend the entire day at our office. We process your tissue in our office lab, which takes at least 1 to 2 hours. If the tissue shows cancer extending through the margin, a second portion of the tissue will be taken. This process continues until all of the cancer has been removed. Once the margins are clear of cancer, the doctor will repair the wound.
- DUE TO THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACE IN OUR WAITING AREA. PLEASE BRING ONLY 1 FAMILY MEMBER/DRIVER. We appreciate your understanding of this request.
- We have crackers, drinks, and coffee available, if you need anything more substantial to eat or drink please bring it with you
- Bring a sweater or jacket to your appointment - our office requires cool temperatures to keep the laboratory equipment working properly
- Bring a book or other form of entertainment, since you will be at our office for several hours
- If you notice a significant increase in the size of the cancer between the time we see you and the scheduled date for surgery, please call our office as we may need to re-evaluate you and possibly schedule surgery sooner.
- An educational video on the Mohs procedure is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6TxdvjPk5I>