

***Surgical and Cosmetic Dermatology of Rhode Island  
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**MOHS INSTRUCTIONS**

Carefully READ this handout and FOLLOW the instructions. This has been prepared to help answer some of your questions, and offer a few suggestions to make this experience as easy for you as possible.

The Mohs procedure takes anywhere 1-5 hours, depending on the extent of your skin cancer and the number of layers that need to be taken. This can make for a long and tiring day; therefore, we strongly recommend that a friend or family member drive you to and from the office on the day of surgery. We also suggest that you bring along a snack in case the surgery runs longer than expected. There is a TV in the waiting room to help pass the time, but feel free to bring along a book, radio, newspaper, etc., whatever you will need to make your brief stay with us as pleasant as possible.

You will be awake throughout the procedure since the area will be numbed with a local anesthetic, the same way it was numbed for the biopsy. You may experience some discomfort during administration of the anesthetic, but this will be minor and of short duration. This is the ONLY discomfort you should have. The area will be numb, and although you may feel tugging or pulling, you WILL NOT FEEL PAIN.

The doctor will then remove the visible tumor and take it to the lab where the technician will process the tissue for viewing under the microscope. This process will take anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes. During this time the nurse will put a temporary bandage over the wound and you will be free to move around and relax.

After the doctor examines the tissue under the microscope, there may still be tumor present, in which case it will be necessary to repeat the above procedure. If, on the other hand, the slides are free of tumor, the doctor will review with you the different options for closing the wound. Before you go home the nurse will explain to you how to care for your wound. You will return to the office 1-2 weeks later to have your stitches removed.

## MEDICATIONS TO AVOID

THESE DRUGS CONTAIN ASPIRIN, AND SHOULD BE **AVOIDED FOR 2 WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY.**

Alka-Seltzer	Empirin	Robaxisal
Anacin	Encaprin	Sine-Aid
Ascriptin	Equagesic	Sine-Off
Bufferin	Excedrin	Sinutab
Cheracol Caps	Fiorinol	Stendin
Cope	Glucosamine	Relafen
Lodine	Synalogs	Percodan
Coricidin	Midol	Talwin
Darvon Comp.	Multi-Vitamin	Ecotrin
Norgesic	Triaminicin	
Dristan		

Please let us know if you are currently using any of the drugs listed below.

These drugs may also affect your surgery. Many of these drugs will prolong your bleeding time or inhibit the clotting mechanism in your blood.

The following arthritis medications should be stopped **2-3 days prior**: Anaprox, Naprosyn, Clinoril, Feldene, Nuprin, Flexeril, Oralflex, Ibuprofen, Tolectin, Indocin, Motrin, Aleve, and Advil.

Nicobid (**off 48 hours**)

Fish oils and ginko (**off 48 hours**)

Vit E (**off 2 weeks**)

Multi-Vitamin (**off 2 weeks**)

Tylenol/Acetaminophen and Celebrex are okay to take.

### **PRE-OP INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Eat breakfast or lunch before surgery---EXCEPT if you will be seeing a Plastic Surgeon the same day as your procedure here. Please check with the Plastic Surgeons office in regards to what you can or can not do prior to their surgical procedure.
2. If you are a Diabetic you must bring a snack or lunch.
3. Take your regular medications –Do Not skip your medicines unless you have been instructed to do so.
4. No Aspirin or Aspirin products for 2 weeks before the surgery. Aspirin makes you bleed.
5. No Alcohol for 24-48 hrs. before and after the surgery. This is to decrease bleeding.
6. **Do not use any fragrant products** such as perfumes, powders, oils, body sprays or lotions for any of your appointments in this office. Fragrant products can cause Headaches, Migraines and Sinus irritation to others in the office (staff and/or patients in the waiting room). If someone is coming with you to your appointment please instruct them to refrain from wearing any fragrant products.