



2525 9th Ave, Suite 2A, Altoona PA 814 – 943 – SKIN (7546)

Patient Information for Your Upcoming Mohs Micrographic Surgery

What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Mohs surgery is a technique that was developed to remove skin cancers under local anesthesia that provides the highest cure rate for skin cancers. Thin layers of tissue are removed and examined under the microscope while the patient waits in a waiting room, to see if all of the skin cancer has been removed. If some of the skin cancer's "roots" remain, the patient is brought back to the surgical suite so that additional tissue layers can be removed.

How long does Mohs Surgery take?

The time to remove the skin cancer may take only 5 to 10 minutes. However, the patient will be required to wait in the surgery waiting room for 1 to 2 hours to see if that first layer contains any additional cancer. Several additional layers may need to be taken in the surgery suite to completely remove the skin cancer. We cannot predict how long your total stay at the office will be that day, **so we ask that you do not schedule any other appointments that day, and you plan to spend it in our office. It may also be required to bring you back to our office on another day, or to the local hospital operating room, to repair your defect.**

What do I need to do to prepare for my Mohs Surgery?

Plan on taking off at least a week of work to speed your recovery and prevent complications after surgery. Also do not participate in any strenuous labor/exercise until sutures are removed. Please take ALL of your medications, as prescribed by your physicians (ex; blood pressure medication). **If you are taking aspirin (325mg or 81mg) on your own, without a doctors prescription, please stop this one week prior to procedure in order to minimize any bleeding complications that may occur.**

It is not necessary to stop blood thinners to undergo Mohs surgery if they are absolutely required. (This includes Plavix, Coumadin, Aspirin, Warfarin, Aggrenox, or Pradaxa). If you have had a stroke, heart attack, heart surgery or cardiac stents placed **PLEASE DO NOT** stop any of your blood thinners or medications including aspirin. If you are diabetic, please bring your insulin and glucose testing kit with you. **Also, please do not drink any alcohol (beer, wine, or liquor) or take any herbal/vitamin blood thinners (fish oil, vitamin E, ginseng, or garlic) 1-week prior to your procedure, as alcohol, specific herbs and vitamins dramatically increase additional bleeding during your procedure and may prolong your recovery.** Finally, please **do not shave the area of your skin cancer** prior to your procedure, as this may increase the risk of infection.

Do I have to fast before Mohs Surgery?

No you don't. We ask that you eat a light breakfast the morning of your surgery, and bring snacks or lunch with you in the event that your surgery lasts throughout the morning.

Should I bring someone along with me to drive home?

We ask that you either bring your spouse, or **one family member**, with you to assist with driving home in the event that you are tired, or your bandage impedes your ability to safely drive home.

Where is your office located?

Keystone Dermatology & Center for Skin Surgery is on the second floor of the Puritan Park Medical Building, behind the Bon Secours Hospital. Our address is 2525 9th Ave, Suite 2A, Altoona PA 16602.

Revised 7/20/2012 GJF