



Mohs Surgery Pre-operative Instructions

What can I expect?

- Your appointment will include a consultation with Dr. Burns, removal of the cancer, and reconstruction.
- **Most Mohs appointments last between 2-4 hours.** Your appointment may take longer if it is a particularly challenging tumor or reconstruction. We do not recommend scheduling other appointments the same day.
 - We recommend arriving 15 minutes before your appointment time to allow time to complete intake paperwork.
- All Mohs procedures are performed under local anesthesia (with you awake.)
- Reconstruction typically involves stitches.
- You will be provided both verbal and written post-operative instructions at the end of your appointment.

What should I do the day of surgery?

- **Take all medications you normally take** at their regular time. Do not stop any blood thinners.
 - If you take warfarin (Coumadin), you will need an INR checked within 72 hours of your appointment
- **Eat breakfast and drink fluids.** If your surgery is in the afternoon, eat lunch beforehand.
- If the surgery is on your face, do not wear makeup.
- If your surgery is on the eyelid, there may be significant swelling the day after the procedure preventing safe driving.
- Dress comfortably

What should I bring to the appointment?

- Insurance card and photo ID
- Entertainment—book, tablet, phone, etc. Most of your appointment time will involve waiting for our lab to process the tissue.
- You may bring a friend, family member, or care giver—please no more than one person due to space constraints.
- Snacks and drinks for yourself
- A warm layer or blanket

What should I consider when scheduling?

- Avoid scheduling before out-of-state travel
- Please inform the Mohs schedulers if you have a major upcoming social or business event (wedding, graduation, etc.) Often surgery can be delayed to allow for optimal healing.
- You will need to avoid submerging the wound until the stitches are removed (no swimming, surfing, hot tub, etc.) Typically stitches stay in place for 1-2 weeks.
- You will need to avoid exercise (including yard work) for 48 hours after surgery.

Please inform the Mohs team if any of the following apply to you!

- History of artificial heart valve or joint replacement
- If you have a pacemaker, nerve stimulator, cochlear implant, or other implanted electronic device
- If you ever been told to take antibiotics prior to a dental procedure
- History of HIV or viral hepatitis
- If you are immunosuppressed
- If you are a current smoker
- If you recently have had uncontrolled blood pressure (above 140/100)