

# WHAT TO DO PRIOR TO MOHS SURGERY

For a one week period prior to and after the scheduled date of your surgery, please do not take any medication that contains aspirin or aspirin-related products, such as Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) as an ingredient. Aspirin has an effect on your blood's ability to clot and could increase your tendency to bleed at the time of surgery and during the post-operative period.

Please check the labels of all medication that you take, even those available without a prescription, to make sure you are not taking any aspirin or aspirin-like substances.

**Please consult your physician before stopping any prescribed medication.**

The following is a list of the more common medications and substances that can increase your tendency to bleed:

ASPIRIN	CHILDREN'S ASPIRIN	FELDENE
ALCOHOL	CLINORIL	FIORINAL
ALKA SELTZER	CONGESPIRIN	FOUR-WAY COLD TABS
ANACIN	COPE	IBUPROFEN
ANAPROX	CORICIDIN	INDOCIN
ANAPROXN	COUMADIN	INDOMETHACIN
APC	DARVON	MECLOMEN
A.S.A.	DAVON WITH A.S.A.	MEDIPREN
ASCODEEN	DOLOBID	MIDOL

ASCRIPTIN	DRISTAN	MOTRIN
Low dose ASPIRIN	EASPRIN	NALFON
BUFFERIN	ECOTRIN	NAPROSYN
BRUFEN	EMPIRIN	NORGESIC
CEPHALGESIC	EMPRAZIL	NUPRIN
CHERACOL	EXCEDRIN CAPS	PERCODAN

## THE DAY OF SURGERY

1. Eat a light breakfast or lunch. Please do not drink caffeinated beverages before your surgery.
2. Take your regularly prescribed medications. Please bring any needed medications with you the morning of the procedure. Tell the physician or the nursing staff of any over-the-counter medication that is taken regularly. If you believe you will need a calming medication, please request this at the time of booking your appointment. You will need a driver if a prescription is issued.
3. Stop any blood thinning medication such as Coumadin 3 days prior to your surgery if your regular physician allows you to do so.
4. We recommend a shower the evening or morning before the procedure. Wearing freshly laundered clothing will help reduce the incidence of infection. Wear a shirt or blouse that buttons down the front. A T-shirt is difficult to pull over a large, bulky dressing.
5. Do not apply make-up, cream, or shaving lotion to the affected area.
6. Remember that you may be in our office for an extended period of time, usually 2-4 hours. Bring a book or something for entertainment. A snack or drink is a good idea if you are between meals. Bathroom breaks will be available.
7. The temperature in our office is cool. Bring a small blanket or afghan.
8. If you are having surgery near or around your eye, a family member or friend must accompany you. Medicated patients or patients with impaired vision will not be allowed to drive themselves home. If we need to call for your ride after the surgery, bring the name and phone numbers required with you when you come. Give this information to the front desk.
9. Contact our office should you have any questions.

If you are on any antirheumatoid, antiarthritic, circulation, or anticoagulant medication (e.g., Motrin, Naprosyn, Persantine, or Coumadin), please inform us.

If you need minor pain medication, please take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or another non-aspirin medication. Tylenol is available at your local pharmacy without a prescription and has comparable pain relief potential to that of aspirin. As stated above, if you need calming medication prior to surgery, that must be requested in advance of your appointment.

## More information about Mohs surgery.

The advantages and disadvantages of Mohs excision of carcinoma should be discussed with your doctor or his medical assistant at your pre-operative visit. The alternatives to Mohs surgery are destruction by scraping, regular excision (may leave a larger scar and no guarantee that the entire cancer has been removed), and radiation treatment. Additional surgery may be needed to correct any deformity following the surgery. Repair options may be discussed before surgery including the option of having another surgeon perform the reconstruction following the excision of the tumor. The risks include a scar, bleeding and the chance of infection. Mohs excisions may take at least 2 hours and may take as long as 6 hours. Your consent to remove the carcinoma by Mohs surgery in the Boise office will be requested. Pre-operative instructions are included in this document and post-operative directions including minimizing blood thinners and written post-operative wound care instructions are given to the patient after the surgery. The piece of skin removed will be sent for pathology again for all excisions not done by Mohs surgery. A bandage will be placed on the wound and will remain unchanged for 2 or more days. In some instances, the bandage may need to stay on the wound for up to one to two weeks. Additional corrective surgery may be needed at a later date.

Please call (208) 939-4599 if you have any additional questions.