

WHAT TO DO PRIOR TO SKIN CANCER 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. Do not take any blood thinners as listed above.
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. Your procedure will only take about 30 minutes.
7. The temperature in our office is cool. Bring a small blanket or afghan, if needed.
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. You should be capable of driving yourself home if the surgery is not in a location that will affect your sight.
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.

You will have a bandage at the site of the excision and will need to keep the area covered and dry for at least 2 days. You will be asked not to swim or be in any body of water for up to 2 weeks. If your excision is on the neck or above, your sutures will be removed in 1 – 2 weeks. If your excision is below the neck your sutures will remain for at least 2 weeks. During this time and shortly after you should not plan on swimming or getting into public waters. You can usually shower after two days.

You will have a scar at the site of the excision and should read the consent for surgery before signing. Written wound care instructions are given after your surgery and need to be followed to prevent infection or other complications inherent to all surgeries and procedures.

If you have any additional questions, please call our office at (208) 939-4599