

DERMATOLOGY CENTER OF ROCKLAND, P.C.
Diplomates American Board of Dermatology

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MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY UNIT
PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS
FOR MICROSCOPICALLY CONTROLLED SURGERY

1. Please plan to spend at least three hours for your surgery. It is helpful to have a book to read and to bring one other person to stay with you during the wait. We request that you do not drive home.
2. If at all possible, try to have someone available to help you by phone or stay with you for the first 24 hours after surgery.
3. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing medications (Alka-Seltzer, Excedrin, Aleve, Bufferin, Ecotrin and many “cold pills”) for two weeks before and five days after surgery. Tylenol (ie. acetaminophen) is acceptable to take during this period. Motrin, Advil, Ibuprofen should be discontinued five days before surgery and five days after. If you are on doctor-prescribed aspirin, Plavix or Coumadin, please DO NOT discontinue.
4. The morning of surgery, eat a normal breakfast. Take any medications that you regularly take in the morning. Bring medication if needed during the day.
5. Wear button down shirt or blouse if the surgery is on the face or the head. For surgery on the legs wear pants with loose fitting legs or a skirt if possible. Wear loose comfortable shoes for surgery on the feet.
6. Do not apply cosmetics if the surgery is going to be done on your face.
7. Avoid sunscreens, exercise, bending, straining, stooping, or lifting any heavy objects for the first week after the surgery. Sometimes these motions can cause bleeding from one of the stitches. Arrange your schedule in advance to avoid these activities.
8. You will be given individual instructions on how to care for the wound after surgery. The type of closure will dictate what specific instructions you will need.
9. If you have taken any anti-anxiety medications before surgery, you must have someone available to drive you to and from surgery.
10. If you have been given an antibiotic to take before surgery, be sure to take it as directed one hour before surgery.

If there is any unusual swelling, pain, bleeding or drainage of the surgical site or in case of an emergency, call the office at 845-359-4770 9 a.m. to 6p.m. Monday – Friday and ask for the nurse or doctor. After office hours, weekends, holidays and evenings, you can reach us at 845-359-4770 and leave a message on the emergency voice mail with the nature of the problem, your name and phone number. The dermatologist “on call” will contact you.