



## PREOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### Surgery or Biopsy

1. Please eat before your appointment. Your procedure can be somewhat time consuming. Please prepare to be in our office for several hours and you may have restrictions afterwards.
2. **DO NOT STOP ANY PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, unless instructed by the prescribing physician.**
3. Please schedule your appointments and activities around the procedure date. No exercise, weightlifting, or sports activities (including golf). Plan to rest and have minimal activity for at least 48 hours after surgery. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON GOING OUT OF TOWN WITHIN 1-2 WEEKS AFTER YOUR SURGERY, PLEASE RESCHEDULE THE PROCEDURE FOR AFTER YOUR RETURN DATE.**
4. If you are having surgery on the face, please notify us in advance if you begin having cold or flu symptoms or uncontrolled sinus allergy symptoms.
5. You should NOT have a problem driving yourself home after the procedure because we will use a local anesthetic. **However, if you are having a procedure around your eye area, the bandaging may restrict your eyesight and affect your driving ability in that case.**
6. If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please notify our office as far in advance as possible.

Office #864-231-8599 | Fax #864-231-8073

Your appointment is \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm

**YOU WILL BE GOING TO BUILDING A**



Your doctor has recommended MOHS Micrographic Surgery (MMS)

**Richard J. DeAngelis, M.D.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What is MOHS Micrographic Surgery?**

A: A precise and specialized method to microscopically evaluate thin layers of tissue on site to confirm that all cancer has been removed while conserving as much tissue as possible.

**Q: Why do I need MOHS surgery?**

A: Your biopsy taken shows that your tissue is still positive for skin cancer, or previous attempts at cryosurgical destruction or other methods have failed to remove all cancerous tissue. Mohs surgeons specialize in taking the least amount of tissue possible to remove all the cancer, and this is especially important on delicate areas like the face, ears, and scalp.

**Q: Do I have to go to a hospital to have this procedure performed?**

A: The answer is no. This procedure is performed in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia, like the office you are currently in. We have an in-house lab where we process the tissue taken by the surgeon so that they can read slides and confirm the site is clear in real time.

**Q: What does Dr. DeAngelis NEED TO KNOW about me before my surgery?**

A: Our nurses generally handle asking any questions the doctor needs to know before the surgery. The doctor will ask any further questions they deem necessary before the procedure begins.

**Q. Should I have surgery before an upcoming “out of town” trip?**

A: We recommend that you not plan any type of trip out of your hometown for at least two weeks after your surgery, since you may require suture removal within 7-14 days after your surgery.

**Q: Will I leave the office with an open wound from my cancer surgery?**

A: Some surgery wounds cannot be sutured due to the location and will be left to heal through secondary intention. However, we often perform the necessary reconstruction the same day your skin cancer has been removed. The reconstruction, if needed, is performed while under local anesthesia. In rare cases, your referring doctor or out team may have arranged for you to have further reconstruction closer to home by another specialist.

**Q: What should I expect on my day of surgery?**

A: You should expect to be at our office on average between four (4) to six (6) hours, but in some cases you could be here for longer than that. The first step will be having our team set you up for the surgeon to come evaluate the surgery site, numb the site with local anesthesia, and remove the first layer of tissue. This specimen will be taken to the lab on site and a slide will be made for the doctor to read. They will determine if the site is clear, or if it is still positive and another layer of tissue needs to be taken. This process repeats itself until the surgeon will determine that all of the cancer has been removed. They will then perform the necessary closure by suturing or stapling the surgery site and then bandaging the surgery site, or just bandaging the site if we are letting the defect heal through secondary intention.

**Q: What should I do in preparation for my surgery?**

A: You should eat a hardy breakfast before coming to our office the day of surgery & you should take all daily medications such as high blood pressure medicine, diabetes medication, or other prescribed medicines. If you require assistance, please bring someone with you. They can run errands around town or go home (if they live close by) during your procedure and we can notify them when you will need to be picked up. **We recommend avoiding scheduling other appointments on this day due to varying degrees of difficulty of cases and closures.**

**Q: What should I do after the MOHS surgery has been done?**

A: You will most likely follow up with us for a suture removal or wound check 7-14 days after your surgery. We will send the visit note to your referring provider so that they know the procedure was performed at our office. You should keep or make follow up appointments with your referring physician after this specialized procedure because if you have had at least one skin cancer, your risk of developing another one in your lifetime is higher than the average person. Routine examinations are critical to ensure early detection of subsequent skin cancers, if they were to develop.