

# *Mohs Patient information*

This instruction sheet is to help you prepare for your Mohs surgery.

## What is Mohs?

It is a tissue sparing surgery that is used to remove certain types of skin cancer. It involves using surgical mapping techniques and complete microscopic examination of the tissue that is removed. The process is a STAGED PROCEDURE. Removal of each piece of tissue may take from 5 to 25 minutes. After that the tissue is processed and slides are made then read this step takes at least another 30 –45 minutes and may be longer depending on the case load for the day. After your slides are read Dr. Tutrone will share the results with you. If there is still cancer present he will take more tissue for processing and will return to you when he has the results of that layer. If there is no more cancer you will be prepared so that your wound can be surgically closed.

Mohs surgery has a cure rate close to 99% in most cases. However, there still a chance that the skin cancer may recur.

## How long will the procedure take?

Plan to spend the day with us. Please do not make any appointments or plans that need to be kept for the day. Most cases are cleared by the third layer, however some cancers take more layers to remove. There is no guarantee how many yours may take.

## Will I have a scar?

Anytime that you have a surgery done there will be a scar, it is our goal to minimize that scar but you will still have one.

## Will I have pain?

Very few patients need any medications stronger than Tylenol to deal with any surgical discomfort that may occur.

## Preparing for your surgery:

### Medications:

Please continue to take ALL medicines prescribed by your doctor including your blood thinners.

Please stop ANY AND ALL non prescribed medicines or herbal supplements 2 weeks prior to the surgery. Continuing to take them may affect your ability to clot during your surgery which may lead to complications. Here are some examples but remember we want you to stop ANY and ALL non prescribed meds: Aspirin/aspirin containing products (Anacin, Bufferin, Excedrin, Alka seltzer or percodan) Advil, Motrin, ibuprofen, Vitamin E, fish oils, garlic, ginger, ginkgo, etc.

Please do not drink alcohol/wine/beer for 3 days before surgery this will increase your risk of bleeding.

You MAY take Tylenol anytime before surgery for pain since this medication does not stop you from clotting.

## The day of your surgery:

Take ALL of your prescribed medicines

Please bring your nitroglycerin tablets or your portable oxygen if you use them.

Eat a regular breakfast, bring snacks and/or a packed lunch.

Bring something to pass the time with (Hobbies, books, etc), most of your time will be spent waiting for results.

Please do not wear any perfume, make-up, jewelry or nail polish.

Please bring an updated medicine list with you.

Please do not bring your children/ babies with you as that they will be bored.