

PREPARATION FOR SURGERY

- Continue your regular medications as prescribed. If taking any blood thinners such as Plavix or Coumadin (warfarin) consult with your prescribing physician regarding stopping. We normally DO NOT stop them for surgery.
- If taking aspirin, NSAIDS, Vitamin E, ginkgo biloba, garlic, or other herbal supplements, please stop them 10 days prior to your procedure unless another physician has advised otherwise.
- Please notify us if you have a pacemaker, defibrillator, or other implanted device.
- Please notify us if you have an artificial joint or heart valve, ever had rheumatic fever or a heart murmur, and/or if you take prophylactic antibiotics prior to surgery or dental cleaning.
- Get a good night's rest and eat a hearty breakfast making sure to take your medications as usual. Dress comfortably and in layers as some rooms are warm while others may be cold. If you are having Mohs micrographic surgery, expect to stay with us for 3-5 hours. Bring snacks, drinks, and reading/work material to help you pass the time. There will be a lot of waiting while your sample is being processed. We will have music playing, but feel free to bring your own music and headphones at your preference.
- Unless the area being treated is near the eye, you should be able to drive home after the procedure. However, it is always a good idea to have someone on "stand by" to pick you up in case you do not feel well enough to drive home.
- You are always welcome to bring a supportive family member/friend, but please keep in mind that space in the room is limited.
- If we see you as a consult prior to the day of surgery, make sure to fill any prescriptions and obtain supplies well ahead of time in order to reduce stress the day of surgery.
- Please arrive 10 minutes early. If we are running ahead of schedule we may even call you to see if you would like to come earlier.
- As with any surgery, there may be significant bruising and swelling the first week or two. Areas of the scalp, forehead, eyes and nose may cause dramatic eyelid swelling which is normal and expected. Plan your social calendar accordingly.
- Postoperatively, we normally restrict exercising, straining, swimming for the first week or two. Any exertion, even bending down quickly can cause bleeding of a head wound as this area is so well vascularized. Prepare to take it easy. Watch a show, use the computer, read a book...

If any questions or concerns please feel free to call us. We look forward to taking care of you!