

## Instructions for Patients Scheduled for MOHS Surgery

### WHEN SCHEDULING MOHS: Consider the following . . .

- A post operative office visit for suture removal will usually be required between 5 and 14 days after your procedure. Please check your schedule to be certain that you will not be away at that time.
- When scheduling your surgical appointment, consider the fact that for several weeks following your procedure you must refrain from strenuous physical activity that places stress on the excision site.
- The reception area in our Mohs Surgery Suite is a **surgical waiting room reserved for patients**. If you choose to have someone accompany you for the duration of your procedure, unless it is medically necessary that someone remain at your side, your companion may be asked to wait in the Dermatology Associates reception area on the second floor (Suite 230).

### ONE WEEK BEFORE: Discuss these with the Mohs Nurse when she calls, and again at surgery.

- It is important that you inform us if you have any specific underlying bleeding tendency and that you tell us what medications you are taking, as many drugs act to prevent clotting and may prolong bleeding. These include non-prescription substances, as well as herbal and vitamin supplements.
  - **CONTINUE** the use of Coumadin (warfarin, dicumarol), aspirin, Persantine (dipyradamole), Plavix (clopidogrel bisulfate) or other “blood thinning” medications. It is important that you inform us at the time of the surgery that you are taking these.
  - **DISCONTINUE** Ginkgo Biloba, Fever Few, vitamin E, multi vitamins or garlic supplements 7 days prior to surgery.
  - **COMPLETE** the attached Medical History and Prescribed Medicines list to bring with you.
- Be sure to tell us if you have been instructed by your medical doctor that you require the use of **oral antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures**. In most cases it is not necessary to take antibiotics prior to this procedure, but we can discuss it with you.
- The Mohs procedure is performed under local anesthesia, which is injected directly into the skin. Since the anesthetic we use is similar to the one used by dentists, it is important that you inform us of any **allergic or any other adverse reaction you’ve had to anesthetics** used by your dentist.
- Inform the nurse if you have a **pacemaker** or **defibrillator**.

### 24 HOURS BEFORE:

- Do not drink **alcoholic beverages** during the 24 hour period prior to surgery, as this prolongs bleeding.
- Plan to have a good night’s rest prior to the surgery.

### DAY OF MOHS PROCEDURE:

- Kindly refrain from using perfume or after shave.
- Have **breakfast** prior to reporting to the office and bring a light **lunch** because the length of the procedure can vary and you may not be ready to leave before mid-afternoon. (Refrigeration available)
- **Remember to take your scheduled medicines** as indicated above.
- Bring your completed **Medical History and Prescribed Medicines** list and a **sweater**.
- At the time of surgery, inform nurses **and** doctor **if:**
  - You have a **pacemaker** or **defibrillator**
  - You are **taking any blood thinners**
  - You have **allergies to anesthetics**