

*Ada West*  
**DERMATOLOGY**  
*Mohs Micrographic Surgery*

**PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOHS SURGERY**

**INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES**

**Please come to the second floor (suite 200) at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
1618 Millennium Way  
Meridian, ID 83642-6457**

The following information will help you prepare for your visit.

- If you take aspirin, ibuprofen, Plavix® (clopidogrel) or products containing aspirin for a medical condition, please consult with your doctor and let them know that you are having Mohs surgery. Usually, it is safe to proceed with surgery while on anticoagulant medications.  
**NEVER stop medication without permission from your doctor.**
- If you take Coumadin® (warfarin), please call 208-955-0962 with your most recent INR blood test result, within a week of your Mohs surgery. If your INR has been less than or equal to 3.0, you will not be asked to stop taking your Coumadin® (warfarin).
- Please eat a good breakfast the morning of your appointment. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids.
- Wear comfortable clothing that will be easy to remove over a bulky bandage. If your surgery will be on the face, scalp, arms, chest or back, we recommend a top that buttons or zips down the front. You may also want to bring a wrap or sweater as the temperature in the room can sometimes be chilly.
- If your skin cancer is on your face, please do not wear any make-up.
- **YOUR SURGERY VISIT MAY LAST ALL DAY.** You may want to bring something to help occupy your time (reading, knitting, etc.). We do have free Wi-Fi available. You may bring a friend or family member if you wish. Due to limited room space, please limit family members or visitors to two people.
- The initial removal of the tissue (skin cancer) takes less than 20-30 minutes. After removing the tissue, we will put a temporary dressing on the wound and show you to our waiting room. The tissue is then processed (put on slides). This can take one hour or longer. The doctor will review the slides under the microscope. If

there are still skin cancer cells at the edge of what was removed, we will repeat the above procedure until all the skin cancer is gone. After all the skin cancer is gone the doctor will do reconstructive surgery if necessary. The reconstruction may take 45 minutes or longer. Waiting time depends not only on your own surgery but also on the other patients' surgeries scheduled for that day. Waiting times can range anywhere from 30 minutes to three hours or longer. The doctor does the reconstruction (or closure of the wound) as patients scheduled that day clear (find no more skin cancer).

- You will leave the clinic with a bulky bandage which will need to stay in place (clean and dry) for 2 days. The Mohs clinic staff will review detailed wound care instructions with you before you go home.
- Your bandage could limit your vision. If your surgery will be on or near your eyelid, you will definitely need someone else to drive you home after surgery.
- You should limit your activity (**NO** heavy lifting, **NO** exercising, **NO** activity that may raise your blood pressure, and **NO** swimming or hot tubs) for up to 2 weeks after your surgery. The length of time for these limitations varies depending on the extent and location of your surgery, and may be shorter than 2 weeks. The Mohs staff will be able to give you more detailed, individualized instructions before you go home the day of surgery.
- You should not drink alcohol 2 days prior to and 2 days after your surgery due to increased bleeding risk.
- Plan for your lunch. You may want to bring a lunch with you, or you may go to one of the near-by restaurants.

**\* Please contact the Mohs surgery medical assistants at 208-955-0962 should you have any questions regarding your surgery that are not answered in the above instructions.**

**\*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR SURGERY VISIT MAY LAST ALL DAY.**