



# All Dermatology

ARROWHEAD · BILTMORE / ARCADIA · SURPRISE

## Mohs Pre-Operative Patient Instructions

Your provider has recommended you have Mohs surgery for your skin cancer. This surgery is done in one of our clinics by our specially trained physician as an out-patient procedure.

We know that this can be a stressful procedure and we want it to go as well as possible for you. Here are some things to know before your surgery.

- On the day of your surgery please plan to arrive about 15 minutes prior to your appointment to assure time to update any of your medical or insurance information. Contact our office immediately if you will be delayed.
- **You should plan on your procedure taking 4-8 hours. Do not plan anything else on the day of your surgery.** The Mohs procedure involves removing the cancerous tissue, processing it in our office and then examining it microscopically to determine if the cancer has been fully removed. Further tissue will be removed if any cancer remains. Once it has been determined that all the malignant tissue has been removed the doctor will then surgically close the wound. Each stage of this process takes approximately one hour.
- **Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing.** Wear a shirt that buttons up or slips over your head easily if your surgery is anywhere on your face or neck area. You may want to bring a sweater or light jacket as the office can sometimes be a little cool.
- **If you take aspirin or blood thinners, you should continue taking them** unless you have been specifically instructed otherwise by our nurse or doctor.
- Eat breakfast and take all your regular medications on the day of your surgery.
- Light snacks, juice, water and coffee will be available in the office. If your procedure extends through lunch, lunch will be provided for you.
- Mohs surgery is done under local anesthesia. No general anesthesia or conscious sedation is used. You will be awake and alert throughout the procedure and **most patients are able to drive themselves home after the procedure.**
- If your surgery is particularly extensive, if you have any physical limitations, or, if you feel more comfortable, please arrange for someone to bring you and take you home after the surgery. You may have someone wait with you as well.
- **Bring something to keep you occupied during the waiting periods** such as a book, tablet, e-book or magazines. Wi-Fi is available in our office.

We look forward to seeing you and will make every effort to make you comfortable before, during and after your surgery.

**If you have any questions or concerns prior to your Mohs procedure, do not hesitate to call our office.**

### Arrowhead

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### Surprise

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