

What to Expect with Mohs Surgery



- **When scheduling your surgery appointment:**
 - Plan to **stay in town for at least one week** after surgery for your safety and to prevent or manage potential post-operative complications.
 - Do not schedule important social or business activities such as weddings, family pictures, business trips or presentations due to potential of swelling and bruising.
 - **Plan to take the day off from work.** If you feel up to it, you may return the next day. Sometimes, especially when your surgery is on the nose, eyelids or lips, you may need more time off. This is on a case by case basis. We can provide you with a work excuse at the time of your visit if needed.
- **On the day of your surgery:**
 - **Continue to take ALL medications** as prescribed unless otherwise directed by the doctor.
 - If taking Coumadin, you will need your INR checked 5 to 7 days before surgery and have the result faxed to 704-295-0005. You should **NOT** stop taking Coumadin or other blood thinners.
 - It is recommended you have a driver take you home. With certain locations on the face it is required (Uber/taxi is okay if you don't have another option).
 - Eat breakfast as you normally do. There are no pre-operative dietary restrictions **unless** your repair is being performed by a plastic surgeon at the hospital. You may bring food and beverages to our office since the appointment will be a few hours long. Avoid using creams, lotions, or makeup on the area.
 - Wear comfortable casual clothing. This should be a two-piece outfit rather than a dress.
- **During your surgery appointment:**
 - Plan to spend **SEVERAL HOURS** at the office. On average, you can expect to spend 2 to 4 hours in our office, but it could be longer. The majority of the time at the office is spent waiting on the tissue to be processed. Please visit our website www.carolinaskinsurgery.com for more details of the procedure.
 - We have Wi-Fi at the office. Please feel free to bring laptops, books, etc. to help pass the time.
 - If you have more than one surgery site, please understand we will need to evaluate the areas before determining if both can be treated the same day for your safety and for optimal wound healing.
- **After surgery:**
 - You should go home and rest after the procedure and not have any other plans for the day (i.e.: work, doctor's appointments, meetings, lunch, dinners, shopping, etc.).
 - Follow the written instructions on the post-operative wound care we give you.
 - Limit physical activity after the procedure (i.e.: exercise, yard work, walking, bending, etc.) and avoid heavy lifting (> 10 pounds) for **at least 2 days** to minimize post-operative bleeding.
 - You should expect a scar after the procedure. Scarring is something that slowly improves. Our goal is to minimize the scar appearance over time. Usually scars significantly improve within 6-8 months after the surgery. Before and after pictures are available on our website. After reviewing the photos, if you have concerns about the appearance or how we will repair your wound, you should schedule an in-person consultation prior to your surgery.

Please read this form carefully and sign that you understand the instructions for surgery. If you have any questions, please visit our website www.carolinaskinsurgery.com or call the surgery coordinator at 704-295-0000.

Patient signature: _____ **Date:** _____