

## What to Expect with Staged Excision (“Slow Mohs”)



- **When scheduling your surgery appointment:**
  - Plan to **stay in town for at least two weeks** from the date of your first surgery appointment. This is 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. In certain situations, 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 are happy to provide you with a work excuse form 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/lunch as you normally do. There are no pre-operative dietary restrictions.
  - 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:**
  - The purpose of the surgery is to make sure all of the cancer is removed before stitching the wound. “Slow Mohs” is scheduled with at least three separate appointments over a week to allow the lab time to process and analyze the tissue. Most patients can expect the following schedule:
    - First appointment: remove cancerous tissue.
    - Second appointment: stitch wound (if margins are clear) OR remove more tissue (if needed).
    - Third appointment (if needed): close and stitch wound (if margins are clear).
  - For appointments to remove tissue, you can anticipate being in our office for about 1 hour. When we repair (stitch) the wound, you can anticipate being in our office for at least 1.5 hours.
- **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, dinner, shopping etc.).
  - Follow the written instructions on the post-operative wound care we give you.
  - Limit physical activity after the procedure (i.e.: exercising, yard work, walking, bending, etc.) and avoid heavy lifting (> 10 pounds) for **at least one week** 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](http://www.carolinaskinsurgery.com) or call the surgery coordinator at 704-295-0000.

Patient signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_