

Patient Information

What you need to know about your dermatology procedure

Do I need to get any supplies before the procedure?

Make sure you have the following supplies such as:

- A mild soap such as Dove®, Cetaphil® and Purpose®. These have formulas without perfumes or dyes.
- Tylenol® (acetaminophen)
- Bandage supplies (gauze pads and paper tape)
- A new tube of Aquaphor® or Vaseline® at home.

Can I take my medicines before the procedure?

If your cardiologist or primary doctor has prescribed aspirin, aspirin containing products, Coumadin®, Plavix®, Vitamin E®, Fish Oil or any other blood thinners, **do not stop** taking them. It is safe to continue these medicines if they were prescribed by your doctor.

If you take any of the above medicines, but they were not prescribed by a doctor stop taking aspirin, products with aspirin in them, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines, (Ibuprofen, Motrin®, Advil®, Aleve®) and herbal products 1 week before your procedure.

If you normally take antibiotics before dental or surgical procedures and we did not order an antibiotic for you, call our office and let us know. We will call a prescription into your pharmacy.

What else do I need to do before the procedure?

- **Do not drink any alcohol 1 week before and after your procedure.**
- Please arrange to have someone drive you home after the procedure. You may be tired and distracted.

What do I need to do the day of my procedure?

- Eat your regular breakfast or lunch.
- Take all of your prescription medicines as usual.
- If you are prescribed an antibiotic to take before your procedure, take it 1 hour before your scheduled time.
- Do not wear make-up if the procedure is being done on your face or head.

What should I wear to the procedure?

If the procedure is being done on your:

- Head or face – wear a shirt or blouse that buttons or zips in the front
- Legs - wear pants with loose fitting legs or a skirt if possible
- Feet - wear loose comfortable shoes on the feet, adjustable slip-ons preferred

How long will I be at the office?

If you are scheduled for Mohs Procedure, plan to spend up to 4 hours at the office. You may want to bring a book or personal music player.

- If you are scheduled for an excision, plan to spend up to an hour at the office
- Please understand that we try our best to begin your procedure at the time given to you. Sometimes, due to the nature of this procedure, we have to spend more time with the patient before you, delaying your start time.

What can I expect after surgery?

- Please know that we do our best to keep healthy tissue and only take out cancerous tissue. Sometimes, your incision may be slightly larger than you expected.
- You will get an appointment before you leave to have your sutures removed in 1-2 weeks.
- You will get written instructions about how to take care of your biopsy site or incision.

How do I get in touch with my doctor?

- During normal business hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. call our Nursing Phone Triage number at 215-728-4300 and specify that you need to speak with Robin Duvall, RN or Dr. Perlis.
- After normal business hours, call the operator at Fox Chase Cancer Center at 215-728-6900 and ask to speak with Dr. Perlis or Dr. Lessin.
- If you have a true emergency that cannot wait for a response, call 215-356-6942, which is Dr. Perlis' cell phone number.
- Please call our nurse, Robin Duvall, if you have any questions before your procedure or if you need to reschedule your procedure: 215-728-2191

When should I call my doctor?

Call your doctor if:

- your pain gets worse a few days after the procedure
- you have a lot of swelling
- you note bleeding which persists after you apply firm pressure to the area continuously for 20 minutes. It is normal to have some blood on your gauze dressing after the procedure.
- you have a temperature above 100.5°F for 24 hours
- you have redness, warmth, swelling, pus-like drainage at site.