

After Your Mohs Surgery

ANTIBIOTICS Please remember to pick up your antibiotic prescription from your pharmacy!

BANDAGE If pressure bandage was applied, keep it on for 24-72 hours, unless instructed otherwise. After removing the pressure bandage, clean the area with half-strength hydrogen peroxide (1 part peroxide to 1 part water). Apply prescribed antibiotic ointment (if you were prescribed one) or petrolatum or Aquaphor, as directed, and a new bandage if there is any oozing. Repeat this daily until you are seen for follow up. If there is no oozing, you may leave the wound uncovered or cover with a loose dressing or a band-aid, but continue to apply the ointment.

WOUND CARE If your surgical site is on the arms or legs, please elevate the area as often as possible. If your surgical site is on the face, you may use ice packs to control swelling. Apply ice pack for up to 10 minutes every 1-2 hours and repeat as needed during the first 48 hours. Please note it is common for swelling and bruising to continue beyond the 72-hour period, especially around the eyes and lips. It is normal for the wound area to be numb for several weeks.

MEDICATION Take Tylenol/acetaminophen or prescribed pain medication for pain as needed. Unless instructed otherwise, try not to take aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), or naproxen (Aleve) specifically for wound pain. You should continue your daily aspirin or other blood thinners.

Take oral antibiotics as directed. If prescribed medications cause rash or diarrhea, STOP and call our office immediately.

BATHING You may shower with soap/shampoo and lukewarm water the day after the surgery, unless instructed otherwise. Please do not shave over sutures.

WORK You may go to work as usual; just make sure to take it easy.

RESTRICTIONS No lifting of heavy objects. No strenuous exercise or running. No alcohol for 24 hours. Avoid bending over. No smoking for one week! Smoking inhibits blood flow to the healing wound.

INFECTION In spite of best wound care and antibiotics, wound infections may happen. They usually start on days 4-6 after the operation. The most common signs and symptoms are pain, redness, swelling, scabbing and pus. If you suspect wound infection, call our office immediately.

FOLLOW-UP One to two weeks as directed for suture removal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Your Mohs surgery was performed by Dr. Ross Zeltser. The closure was performed by Dr. Zeltser or Dr. Grigoriy Mashkevich.