



T E X A S
DERMATOLOGY
& SKIN CANCER
C E N T E R

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Pre-Operative Instructions

The following instructions and checklist are provided in order to help you be prepared for your surgery. Please bring your insurance cards, medication list, and any other information requested in the preoperative instructions below.

- Continue all prescription medications as advised by your primary care doctor or by your specialist.
- Certain herbal medications can increase your risk for bleeding during surgery. Please stop taking garlic, ginkgo, ginseng and ginger at least 72 hours prior to your surgery.
- If you need pain medicine you may take Tylenol.
- If you smoke your surgery site will heal better if you discontinue smoking for 48 hours prior to the procedure and during the recovery period.
- No Alcohol 24 hours prior to the surgery and 24 hours after...sorry, it makes you bleed easier.
- You do not have to fast prior to surgery. Please enjoy a normal breakfast or lunch before coming to the office. Since the procedure is likely to take a number of hours it is a good idea to bring a snack.
- Please cancel all activities for the day of surgery and possibly longer. You will receive postoperative instructions about how to care for your surgery site before you leave our office.
- Please arrive 15 minutes **prior** to your scheduled surgery time.
- Notify your physician if you have a pacemaker or intracardiac defibrillator.
- The duration of your visit will depend on the extent and complexity of your skin cancer. For early morning appointments, we ask that you plan to be at our office until approximately lunchtime. For late morning appointments, we ask that you plan to be in our office through the early afternoon. However, this does not mean that you will be in surgery the entire time. After surgical removal, we process the tissue in the lab, which takes at least one hour. At that time the tissue will be analyzed, and if the margins show no remaining cancer, the necessary means to repair the area will take place. However, if the tissue shows roots of cancer extending through the margin, a second layer will be taken to be analyzed. This process takes place repeatedly until all the margins are cleared. This method is performed to assure that all the cancer cells are removed, so there is less chance of any recurrence.
- Please give 48 hours' notice for change in time of surgery.