

**Please Read, Sign and Bring to Your Appointment**

As with any surgery, Mohs surgery is associated with possible risks and complications. The following is a list of the most common risks of Mohs surgery. It is not intended to be a complete list of all the potential complications that may occur with surgery.

1. **Scarring**- It is impossible to cut the skin without leaving a scar. The aim of any surgery is to leave the least noticeable scar as possible and to hide it within normal lines of the skin to make it less visible. **INITIAL**
2. **Infection**- the rate of wound infection is very low with this kind of surgery, generally less than 1 person out of 100. We aim to keep it this low by cleaning the skin and occasionally using antibiotics after surgery. If you do develop a wound infection, we treat it with antibiotics. **INITIAL**
3. **Bleeding**- there is a risk of bleeding whenever we cut into skin. We reduce this risk by cauterizing any blood vessels during the surgery. Rarely does bleeding occur after the surgery. Please contact our office immediately if this occurs. **INITIAL**
4. **Bruising and Swelling**- is common and often will occur the first day after surgery and may persist for up to 2 weeks while the skin is healing. Sometimes if the surgery is on the forehead there can be extensive bruising and swelling around the eyes due to gravity. **INITIAL**
5. **Pain**- some discomfort is expected after surgery; usually it is minor and controlled with Tylenol. If the pain is more severe, we will give you prescription strength pain medicines. Occasional discomfort may be felt during the healing phase of any wound (up to 6 months). **INITIAL**
6. **Numbness**- sometimes nerves can be damaged during the surgery. This may lead to areas of numbness (loss of feeling) in the surrounding skin. Usually this is temporary; sometimes it is permanent. **INITIAL**
7. **Opening of the Wound**- stitches stay in for 1-2 weeks. Although rare, stitches can become undone or fail to hold for any number of reasons. You agree to contact us if this happens prior to your next post-operative care appointment. **INITIAL**
8. **Abnormal Scarring**- scars continue to heal and mature for up to 1-2 years. Sometimes several months after the surgery the scar may begin to thicken. This is called a keloid scar. There are many ways of treating this. You will need to contact us if this happens. **INITIAL**
9. **Recurrence of the tumor**- Mohs surgery provides the highest cure rate of any form of skin cancer treatment. Nevertheless, it is not 100% cure rate; recurrences, although rare, can still occur. Should there be a recurrence, Mohs surgery would be performed again. **INITIAL**
10. The need for **Additional Procedures** at a later date to reduce scar swelling, redness or thickening. Your doctor will let you know if this is necessary. **INITIAL**

The nature, purpose and possible complications of the procedure, the risk and benefits, reasonably to be expected, and the alternative methods of treatment that are available have been clearly explained to me. I understand the explanation that I have received, including my right to refuse treatment. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions I may have and have been encouraged to ask any further questions that may arise during the course of treatment. I acknowledge that the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science and that reputable practitioners therefore cannot properly guarantee or assurance have been given to me regarding the success or benefits that may result from the above procedure. The taking of photographs before, during and after treatment is essential for the medical records and insurance purposes. The photos will become part of my medical record and shared with necessary healthcare professionals.

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby consent to the treatment, release of information and photography.

Print Your Name

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

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