

**BAKERSFIELD DERMATOLOGY AND SKIN CANCER
MEDICAL GROUP
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BEFORE YOUR SURGERY

TEAM APPROACH: Our office consists of a variety of health care providers, all of whom are highly trained and skilled individuals. Our intention is to provide you with the best possible dermatologic surgery care. In our effort to do this, our physicians and physician assistants work together as a team. When you come in for your surgery, it is likely that one member of our team may administer the anesthetic, while another team member performs the removal of the lesion, and another sutures the incision. All of our team members are trained and skilled in providing these services. Our team approach allows us to provide the best possible care in an efficient fashion. If you are uncomfortable with this approach, please let us know in advance.

Although we include in our discussion of surgical problems all of the following, at one time or another, often, under the stress of an upcoming operation, some of the conversation is not remembered well. Therefore, we would like to be sure that you are aware of the problems that can occur following any, including minor, surgery.

HEMORRHAGE: Bleeding is the most common complication following surgery. Although all bleeding is stopped prior to closure of the surgical wound, hemorrhage may still occur during the first 48 hours following surgery. Causes of bleeding following surgery may include increased bleeding tendencies (such as caused by aspirin or other drugs), nicking of a blood vessel by the needle at the time the wound is being stitched, and excessive movement of or mechanical injury to the surgical site within the first two days following your surgery.

INFECTION: Since it is impossible to completely sterilize the skin with any type of technique, infection is one of the two most common surgical complications. If post-operative return visits are kept regularly, infection can be recognized early enough to be treated and more serious results can be prevented.

UNSIGHTLY SCAR FORMATION: Some individuals have a tendency to form scars that do not look as good as the average person. Such scars may be too large and thick during the first months after surgery (hypertrophic scars) and gradually flatten out, and become excessively wide later. Some may become large and thick and remain so indefinitely, or even continue to grow (keloids). Other scars may slowly spread and become wide. Additionally, certain areas of the body are more prone to developing unsightly scars. Although we do everything possible at the time of surgery to prevent unsightly scarring, this may still occur.

NUMBNESS AND TINGLING: Temporary numbness and tingling may often occur around the surgery site. This may continue for several weeks to months however, sensation usually returns within six months.

PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Continue to take your regular prescription medications, and please have breakfast the day of your surgery.
2. If you take **any form of aspirin**, including baby aspirin, please let us know. Other medications that may thin the blood are: ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naprosyn (Aleve), and vitamin E. We advise you to discontinue these medications at least three days prior to your surgery. If you are taking **Coumadin**, please discuss this with us.
3. On the day of your surgery, please bring in a list of all of the medications you are currently taking.
4. Do not drink any alcoholic beverages for 24 hours prior to surgery.
5. In order to aid in the healing process, we recommend no smoking for two weeks prior to surgery, and one week after your surgery.
6. Shower and shampoo on the morning of your surgery, and wear comfortable clothes.
7. If surgery is to be performed on the face or neck, please avoid the use of cosmetics on the day of your surgery.
8. Bring a family member or friend with you, just in case you may need assistance on the way home. We especially recommend this if your surgery is large or around the eyes.
9. Even for minor surgical procedures, it is best to take the day of surgery off, and rest at home afterwards.
10. If you must cancel your surgery appointment, please do so at least 48 hours prior to your appointment.
11. Do not plan on leaving town after your surgery, unless it has been previously discussed with your doctor/provider
12. If you plan to make your appointment later by telephone, please be sure to ask for a _____ minute surgical appointment when you call.
13. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

I have read and reviewed the above information. I understand the risks and complications associated with any surgical procedure, and give my full informed consent to proceed with:

Excision

Mohs Surgery

Dermabrasion

Repair

Signature

Witness

Print Name

Date