

What to Expect After Your Mohs Procedure

What should I do today?

A dressing has been placed over the operative site. Leave this in place and keep the wound as dry as possible for 24 hours.

How do I take care of my wound?

After the first 24 hours, remove the bandage and gently cleanse the operative site with soap and water. Once dry, apply petroleum jelly (e.g. Vaseline® or Aquaphor®) to the site before putting on a new bandage. For bandaging, use Band-Aids, or a non-stick dressing adhered by medical tape to cover the wound. You should cleanse, apply petroleum, and bandage the site once a day for up to two weeks, or longer until the wound is healed.

- Wounds heal better and hurt less when kept moist with an ointment. We prefer you **not** use Neosporin, as many people are allergic or develop an allergy to this medication.
- If you note any bleeding, apply continuous, firm, and direct pressure to the area **for 20 minutes by the clock**. If this does not stop the bleeding, call our office at (303) 604-1444. If the office is closed, call our office and ask to speak with the on-call provider.

What can I expect in the first 24 hours after surgery?

- You may experience some swelling and discomfort after surgery; this may worsen up to roughly 48 hours after surgery, and then it should start to improve.
- Mild redness around the surgical site is also normal and should improve. If the redness spreads, or if you see red streaks extending from the wound, these could be signs of infection, and you should call our office.
- You may note clear-yellow drainage, clear-pink drainage and/or a small amount of blood on your bandage if you are instructed to change your bandage. This is expected; however, thick yellow liquid (pus) is a sign of possible infection, and you should call our office.
- If your surgery is on the forehead or close to your eye, there is a chance you could develop a black eye (involving one or both eyes). This is normal for a procedure on the forehead or near the eye and will dissipate in about one week's time.

What do you recommend for pain after the surgery?

On the day of surgery after you return home, we recommend icing the surgical site (on top of the bandage) for 10 minutes every hour until bedtime and repeat only as needed the following day. This will help reduce pain and swelling. Also, over-the-counter pain medications such as Tylenol® can be helpful. While pain is different for each person, you should not experience severe pain.

- Ibuprofen/Advil can also be helpful for discomfort but should be avoided until 24 hours after the procedure to prevent any additional bleeding or bruising.

We recommend alternating the following over the counter pain medications **24 hours after your Mohs procedure** if needed:

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) – 1000mg
↓ 3 hours later

Ibuprofen (Aleve/Advil) with food – 600mg
↓ 3 hours later

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It is important to know when alternating the above medications:

1. Do not exceed more than 4g (4000mg) of Tylenol in 24 hours (if you have kidney/liver issues, please ask us how to safely use medication)
2. Do not exceed more than 2400mg of Ibuprofen (Aleve/Advil) in 24 hours (if you have kidney/liver issues, please ask us how to safely use medication)

If you have any concerns about your recovery, call our office 303-604-1444 at any time of day/ night.