

## **SURGERY DONE IN THE OFFICE**

Your skin growth will be removed surgically in the office and will be sent for microscopic examination. Unless otherwise instructed, please eat normally and take all prescribed medications. After surgery, you may resume your usual activities. Rarely are there temporary restrictions placed on sports, dancing or other physical activities.

### **ANESTHESIA**

We use xylocaine for local anesthesia; we take special measures to prevent it from hurting when it is injected. There is no pain during surgery. The anesthesia numbs only the area of surgery. You will be conscious during surgery and afterward will be able to drive home.

### **CAUTIONS**

Please check those that apply:

- Are you taking platelet inhibiting blood thinners such as aspirin, Motrin (ibuprofen), Vioxx (rofecoxib), Celebrex (celecoxib), Ticlid (ticlonidine) or Plavix (clopidogrel bisulfate)?
- Are you taking anti-thrombin blood thinners such as Coumadin (warfarin) or heparins such as Normiflo (ardeparin), Lovenox (enoxaparin) or Fragmin (dalteparin)?
- Are you taking blood thinning vitamins or herbs such as vitamin E, garlic, ginkgo or echinacea?
- Are you taking medications for hypertension such as Inderal (propranolol) or Tenormin (atenolol)?
- Are you taking heart medications such as Lanoxin (digitalis) or quinidine?
- Are you taking medications for anxiety such as Elavil (amitriptyline), Tofranil (imipramine), Prozac (fluoxetine), Nordil (phenelzine) or Parnate (tranylcypromine)?
- Are you taking medications for pain such as Darvon (propoxyphene) Talwin (pentazocine), Percodan (oxycodone) or Demerol (meperidine)?
- Are you taking anti-inflammatory or anti-arthritis medicines?
- Have you ever had a reaction to a local anesthetic such as novocaine or xylocaine?
- Are you allergic to antibiotics or tape?
- Do you have heart trouble?
- Do you have a pacemaker?
- Do you need to take oral antibiotics prior to dental procedures?

A caution about blood thinners. These make people bleed more easily and could complicate your surgery. If you are, on your own, taking aspirin, Motrin (ibuprofen), or vitamin E or herbs please stop taking them fourteen days prior to and two days after surgery. If your physician has told you to take blood thinners of any type please ask him/her if you may stop or reduce them two weeks prior to your surgery.

### **STITCHES**

Stitches may be used to close the wound after surgery. The type of stitch used depends on the surgery and on your skin. Stitches that need removal are usually taken out seven to fourteen days after the surgery. Stitch removal is painless and only takes a few minutes. Sometimes we use stitches that dissolve by themselves.

### **POSTOPERATIVE CARE**

Your wound will be bandaged and you will be given written instructions telling you exactly how to take care of it.

**DISCOMFORT**

Postoperative discomfort is usually mild and lasts only twelve to twenty-four hours after surgery. If the pain lasts longer or if you have severe pain, please call our office. If a painkiller is needed, take Tylenol. Remember, no aspirin or ibuprofen products for at least forty-eight hours after surgery.

**SCARRING**

When cut skin heals, it does so by forming a scar. Every effort will be made to minimize scarring. Often a scar may be barely visible, especially if the skin is wrinkled. However, on the chest, shoulders, back, arms and legs scars may spread, often becoming thickened and noticeable.

**HEART VALVES OR ARTIFICIAL JOINTS**

If you need to take oral antibiotics prior to dental or other medical procedures please let me know. We will provide medication if needed.

**QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office. If you would like to bring someone with you, please do. You may also have them present during surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date