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Slow Mohs Surgery Instructions

Scheduling your Appointment: Slow Mohs is a procedure used to treat melanomas or other melanocytic lesions that is treated over a period of days.

Day 1: Please arrive 20 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time to fill out our new patient paperwork. You can save time by printing and completing the paperwork online at our website www.metrolinadermatology.com before your appointment or logging into the patient portal to complete information before your appointment. At your appointment, the skin cancer will be removed with a safety margin and then sent rush to an outside dermatopathologist to check the margins. It takes around 24-48 hours for the dermatopathologist to receive the tissue and check the margins. Please plan to be in the office for around **45 minutes**. You will leave with an open wound with a pressure bandage on top. You will be asked to leave this in place until you come back. Please do not get this bandage wet.

Day 2/3: You will receive a phone call during the day, usually after 1pm. At that time, you will be told the results. If the margins are positive, we will ask you to come into the office as you will have to have additional tissue removed in the positive area. If the margins are clear, sutures will be used to repair the site or the area will be left open for secondary intention healing. You will be given an appointment time for this to occur.

Day 3/4: You will return to the office to either have the wound closed with sutures or to have additional tissue removed. This process is repeated until clear margins are achieved.

Please do not schedule your slow mohs surgery on a date close to a vacation or trip. Please allow for at least 2 weeks between your surgery and trip.

Before your Appointment:

- You will be able to drive yourself as the procedure is performed under local anesthesia. However, you are welcome to bring a family member or friend to accompany you. If the area is close to your eye, you will want a driver.
- Please take all medications as you normally would. Do not stop any medications unless directed by your MD.
- Please eat breakfast/lunch before you come.
- Make sure you can identify the surgery site.
- Please verify your medical insurance coverage and the need for a referral, pre-authorization, co-pay and deductibles.

Afterwards:

- After your initial surgery, you will leave the office with a pressure bandage that will need to remain in place until you are seen 24-48 hours later. Please do not get this bandage wet.
- The surgery site will not have sutures until we know the cancer has been fully removed. Please limit your physical activities during this time.
- It is up to your discretion whether you would like to return to work following surgery. Each person's pain tolerance is different, however, many patients report minimal pain. If you need to reduce pain, a dose of extra strength Tylenol should suffice. We ask you to minimize any physical activity or anything that will increase your heart rate and/or blood pressure and no heavy lifting the week of surgery.