



THE DERMATOLOGY CLINIC
OF ARKANSAS

HAVING SKIN CANCER SURGERY?

The following instructions are very important and should be followed **BEFORE** your surgery...

1. You will need to stop _____ medication for (5) days prior to your scheduled appointment for surgery. All other routine medication should be continued.
2. Celebrex does not need to be stopped. These medications should be discontinued 7-10 days prior to surgery. Please use Extra Strength Tylenol in place of these medications if needed. Please review the medication list attached.
3. If you are asked to discontinue a prescription blood thinner, we will need permission from your family physician to stop (3) days prior to surgery. You will be able to restart your medication (24) hours after your surgery.
4. Take all other medication that has been prescribed for you.

ON THE MORNING OF SURGERY... Bathe or shower your total body with Dial Antibacterial Soap using a vigorous scrub. Your skin should be thoroughly clean, as well as a thorough shampooing of the scalp with Head & Shoulders Shampoo - washing twice.

CAN I EAT BEFORE SURGERY?

Absolutely! Eat a good breakfast before your appointment. Your office visit may take awhile. We will also allow a lunch break if your procedure runs past noon.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

Please have your blood pressure checked by your family physician if requested at the time of your surgery scheduling. If your blood pressure is elevated, we cannot perform your surgery. Bring your blood pressure medication with you on the day of surgery.

ATTENTION !!

PATIENTS WITH ARTIFICIAL JOINTS OR HEART VALVE

If you have artificial joints or an artificial heart valve, please inform one of the nursing staff or the doctor. You will probably need antibiotics before starting your surgery.

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SKIN CANCER FACT SHEET

- Half of all new cancers are skin cancers.
- Over one million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. Of which, approximately 80% will be basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.
- Both basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma have a better than 95% cure rate if detected and treated early.
- Six out of seven cancer deaths are from malignant melanoma.
- Melanoma is more common than any non-skin cancer among people 25-29 years of age.