

Dermatological Surgery: Preoperative Instructions

How to prepare for dermatological surgery:

- Eat a normal breakfast or lunch before arriving.
- If the surgery will involve the head or neck area, wash your hair the night before or the day of surgery.
- Do not wear any makeup if you are having facial surgery.
- If you develop any cold sores, fever blisters or other illnesses prior to your date of surgery, call Family Dermatology right away.
- Do not take any aspirin (or any medications that contain aspirin) for seven days prior to surgery. Taking aspirin may cause increased bleeding.
- Do not drink any alcohol for four days before your surgery. Drinking alcohol may cause increased bleeding.
- The doctor will let you know if you need to have someone else drive you to the office and back home.
- Prior to surgery, provide Family Dermatology with a complete list of all your current medications, both prescription and non-prescription. Also inform the doctor if you have had any bad reactions to drugs you have taken in the past or any allergies to medications you have experienced at any time in your life. If you are allergic to tape, please let the office know.
- Inform Family Dermatology if you have mitral valve prolapse, an artificial joint, artificial heart valve or pacemaker. If so, you will need to begin a course of antibiotics prior to surgery.
- Plan to go home and rest after your surgery. This will help to avoid complications and ensure the best results. Your activity after surgery will greatly affect the final results. If you exert yourself, it can counteract the great care taken to suture your skin closed. This may result in a more noticeable scar when your wound heals.

If you find you will be unable to keep your surgery appointment, call Family Dermatology immediately so that another patient can be given your scheduled time.

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