

PRIOR TO SURGERY:

- If you take Coumadin, Plavix, or therapeutic aspirin, please continue these medications. You may experience slightly more bleeding, bruising, or swelling, but it is important that you continue these medications. If you are taking a baby aspirin preventatively, you may stop this 10-14 days prior to surgery with your primary doctor's permission.
- Continue to take all other prescribed medications according to your usual schedule unless otherwise instructed.
- Do not consume any alcoholic beverages for three days prior to surgery.

ON THE DAY OF SURGERY:

- Shower and shampoo the morning of your surgery. You will need to keep your bandage dry and will not be able to shower for 48 hours after surgery.
- Eat a good breakfast or lunch prior to arrival.
- Do not wear any makeup if your procedure is on your face.
- Wear a loose neck, button, or zip down shirt, if your surgery is on your head to prevent dislodging your pressure bandage.
- Due to patient privacy concerns and limited space in our waiting room, we request a maximum of one family member or significant other to accompany you to the office for your procedure.



If you have any questions, please contact us at 636-317-DERM or info@SCCDermSurgery.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a skin excision?

In our office, we surgically remove abnormal lesions from your skin. All of our procedures are performed under local anesthesia.

Will my stitches dissolve?

When we place your stitches, you will have two layers. The inside layer is the glue that holds everything together and will dissolve in 1-2 months. The top outer layer of stitches are there to create a nice tight seal and will be removed in 1-2 weeks, depending on their location. We do not like using dissolvable stitches for this layer because they tend to get irritated, overheat, and lead to tracking.

Will I have a scar?

There is no way to perform skin surgery and not have some physical evidence that something was there. What most people are asking is will they have a noticeable scar. This depends on three factors: 1) the skill of the surgeon, 2) adherence to the post-surgical wound care regimen, and 3) the physical attributes of both the lesion (size, location, aggressiveness) and the patient (age, bleeding/infection risk, smoking status.) To note, we will give you all the supplies and instructions needed to have the least noticeable scar.

What restrictions will I have?

The only restriction will be to prevent bleeding in the high risk 36-48 hour window post surgery. This will minimize swelling, bruising, and risk for infection. Anything that increases your blood pressure in this window such as aerobic exercise or "cardio" will increase this risk. This is also why we ask you to keep our first pressure bandage intact and dry until the second morning after your procedure. Light exercise, lifting, and regular daily activity are allowed as long as they do not elevate your blood pressure.

