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## Risks

As with any kind of procedure, there are risks with surgery. Although these complications are rare, you should know about them. In general, the benefits of surgery are believed to outweigh the risks.

- **Post-operative bleeding:** Some bleeding during the procedure is expected, but rarely occurs after surgery. If this should happen, the bleeding can usually be controlled by the use of pressure.
- **Infection:** Infection rarely occurs, and you will be prescribed a course of antibiotics at the time of your surgery.
- **Nerve Damage:** Most scars are numb because the sensory nerve has been cut. This may persist for several months or longer. Very rarely the tumor may infiltrate a motor nerve, so the tumor removal may result in motor nerve damage and loss or diminished range of movement.
- **Allergic Reactions:** Allergic Reactions can occur due to local anesthesia or bandaging material.
- **Pain:** There is minimal post-operative discomfort. If discomfort does develop, it usually responds to Tylenol. If your procedure occurs on the forehead or scalp, you may develop a headache for 1-2 days following surgery
- **Scarring:** A scar will be the result of the procedure. It usually matures over time and becomes cosmetically acceptable. Our physician is highly trained to minimize the appearance of scarring and to hide within the natural lines and wrinkles when possible.
- **Recurrence:** Rarely, some patients will have tumors recur even after Mohs surgery has been carefully performed. Recurrences are almost always treated by Mohs surgery again because it has the highest cure rate for recurrent tumors.
- **Bruising:** If you are currently on anticoagulant therapy e.g. (Coumadin, Warfarin, Aspirin, Levaquin) you will bruise. You should NOT adjust the dosage or discontinue any medication prior to skin cancer surgery. By stopping any prescribed anticoagulant therapy, you put yourself at risk of a heart attack or stroke. You WILL be bruised, and it can involve your entire face. If you have surgery on your face you could appear as though you have two black eyes, this can take days to weeks to dissipate. Bruising is a normal part of the healing process and is much less of a concern than the potential risk of heart attack or stroke.

Please sign and date as evidence that you have reviewed and understand the information provide to you prior to your surgery.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_