

Excision

What is excision?

Excision is a way of removing skin cancers or skin growths (non-cancerous growths) with surgery. We may also take a small amount of normal skin around the area to help make sure all the skin cancer cells have been removed.

Preparing for Surgery

On the day of your surgery:

- Wash the area with antibacterial soap.
- Do not wear any make-up (if the procedure is on your face).
- Wear comfortable, layered clothing.
- Eat regular meals.
- Take your routine medicines.

Medicines

Take all your normal medicines, even blood thinners. If your doctor prescribed you anti-anxiety medicine to help you relax, bring them with you. Only take them after you and the surgeon decide on the procedure. Do **not** take them at home. You will need to have a driver if you use these medicines.

If your skin cancer or skin growth is around your mouth or lips, you may need to take antibiotics before surgery. If you have had a heart valve replacement, joint replacement, or organ transplant, please ask your doctor if you need any medicines before your appointment.

What do I need to bring?

- Bring headphones and music if you want to listen to music during surgery.
- Bring a complete list of current medicines with dosage.
- Bring a list of past and present health problems and surgeries. We need to know if you have an implanted device.

Day of Surgery

When you arrive, check in at the registration desk, or a kiosk. In clinic, the staff and the surgeon will explain the treatment you will have. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off in the procedure rooms. Relatives or friends will need to stay in the waiting room.

We will numb the area. We will remove the skin cancer or skin growth with surgery. Your surgeon will decide how the wound should heal. This may include:

- Healing naturally
- Closing with stitches
- Doing a skin flap or graft

Rarely is there a need for repair by a plastic surgeon. It will depend on the size of the wound, where it is on the body, and what you and your surgeon decide. If you have surgery near the eye, forehead, or upper cheek, there may be swelling that affects your vision.

After Surgery

For a few days after surgery, you may have pain, fatigue and swelling. This will limit how much you can do. You may have weight and activity restrictions for one to several weeks. Your surgeon will talk to you about this after surgery is done.

You will return to the clinic or see your local doctor to have the stitches removed in 1 to 3 weeks.

You will need routine follow up skin exams. You may schedule with your dermatologist or with your primary doctor. The surgeon will help you decide this after your visit.

All forms of skin surgery will leave a scar. Most sites heal very well. Many take up to a full year. Talk to our staff if you have questions or concerns about a scar.

Insurance and Billing

Please have a referral from your doctor (UWHC or from an outside clinic) before your visit here. This will help avoid delays.

For **UW Health physician** billing questions call **608-833-6090**. For **UW Health clinic** billing questions, you can call **608-262-2221**.

Priceline can give estimates of cost at **608-263-1507**.

UW Health West First Floor Dermatology Clinic 451 Junction Road, Madison WI 53717 608-265-7670	UW Health East Clinic Dermatology and Mohs Surgery Clinic 5249 East Terrace Drive, Madison WI 53718 608-265-1288
UW Health West Lower Level Dermatology Clinic 451 Junction Road, Madison WI 53717 608-265-0700	UW Health 1 South Park Dermatology Clinic 1 South Park Street, Madison WI 53715 608-287-2540
UW Health West Clinic Mohs Surgery Clinic 451 Junction Road, Madison WI 53717 608-263-6226	UW Health 20 South Park Dermatology Clinic 20 South Park Street, Madison WI 53715 608-287-2888

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 4/2019. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#7528