



# Teche Dermatologic Surgery Centre

101 Rue Fontaine Bldg 4  
Lafayette, LA 70508

12 Professional Drive  
& Houma, LA 70360

**John C. Chapman, MD**

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## **PREOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

To help you be prepared for your surgery, we ask that you bring your insurance cards and any other information requested in the preoperative instructions below. **It is important that you follow all preoperative instructions and that all information requested is brought with you to our office to prevent any delay in your surgery.**

### **PREOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS & CHECKLIST:**

- Eat a light breakfast or lunch before surgery.
- Please limit to only one friend or family member. You will be admitted in our operatory suite and your family member will have an opportunity to wait for you during the surgery in our waiting room.
- We ask that you plan to be at our office approximately 4-5 hours. This does not mean that you will be in surgery the entire time. Processing of the tissue takes at least an hour to an hour and a half. At that time the tissue will be analyzed under the microscope, and if no cancer is remaining, the area is then repaired. If the tissue shows roots of cancer extending through the margin, a 2nd portion of the tissue would be taken to be analyzed. This process takes place until all the margins are cleared. This method is performed to assure that all the cancer cells are removed so there is a smaller chance of any recurrence.
- Please cancel all activities for the day of surgery and possibly longer.
- Please plan to have a driver **available** in case you are unable to drive yourself home.
- You may want to bring a sweater to be worn in the waiting rooms because the temperature in our office is very cool, although it will not be allowed in the operating room.
- Please do not apply any makeup the day of surgery.
- You will be required to remove your shirt and a gown furnished by the office will be worn to surgery.
- Report any changes in your health, including fever, to our office.
- Bring a list of current medications you are taking.
- Continue the medications you are currently taking.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

We will be happy to file the insurance claim for your surgery. Please bring your **insurance cards** and a **photo ID** with you to your appointment. Our office will contact your insurance company prior to your appointment to ensure your eligibility and obtain an estimate of covered benefits. **On or before the day of your procedure, you are required to pay any out-of-pocket costs, including deductibles, copays, and coinsurance.** After the procedure is completed and payment is received from your insurance company, any remaining balance must be paid in full within 30 days. If payment from your insurance company results in a credit balance, that balance will be refunded.

Any price quoted by our office would be an **estimate** of our physician services only and would not include outside laboratory or facility fees unless otherwise specified.

If you have a Cancer Policy separate from you primary or secondary insurance, please inform the front desk upon checking in so that you may have the paperwork mailed to you.

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## SURGERY EXPECTATIONS & RISKS:

- The area surrounding the skin cancer will be anesthetized by a small local injection; usually similar to the one you received for your biopsy. After the skin cancer has been completely removed, a decision is made on the best method for treating the wound created by the surgery. These methods include letting the wound heal by itself, closing the wound in a side-to-side fashion with stitches, closing the wound with a skin graft or flap, or smoothing down the edges of the area without any stitches. In most cases, the best method is determined on an individual basis after the final defect is known.
- Your surgical wound will require care during the weeks following the surgery.
  - You should plan on wearing a bandage for **10-14 days**.
  - Please plan to avoid strenuous physical activity for at least **72 hours** and in some cases one to two weeks, depending on the location and size of the cancer.
- You may have bruising and swelling, especially for lesions located on the face or if you are currently taking blood thinning medications. You may experience a sensation of tightness across the area of your surgery.
- Skin cancers frequently involve small superficial nerves and months may pass before your skin sensation returns to normal. A numbness sensation may be expected over the area. This is common and usually expected but is something that with time will return to normal. In very rare instances, the numbness may be permanent.
- Complete healing of the scar takes place over **3-12 months**.
- During the first few months the site may feel “thick, swollen or lumpy”, and there may be some redness. Gentle massage of the area (starting about one month after your surgery and excluding grafts) will speed the healing process. The defect created by the removal of the skin cancer may be larger than anticipated. There is no way to predict prior to surgery the exact size of the final defect.
- Mohs surgery will leave you with the smallest wound thus creating the best opportunity for optimal cosmetic results. However, there will be a minimal scar at the site of removal. We will make every effort to obtain optimal cosmetic results, but our primary goal is to remove the entire tumor.
- Despite our best efforts, for various reasons (such as poor physical condition, smoking, diabetes, or other diseases), healing is slow, or the wound may re-open. In some cases, there may be poor wound healing. Flaps and grafts used to repair the defect may at times fail also. Although these instances are **not common**, they are to be expected with the instances listed above. Under these circumstances, the wound will usually be left to heal on its own and in some cases after healing certain procedures may be done to improve the cosmetic appearance of the area. There is a **small** chance that your tumor may regrow after surgery. Large, longstanding tumors, and previously treated tumors have the greatest chance of recurrence.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office for assistance.

**We wish you a pleasant visit and a speedy recovery.**

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