



## SKIN CANCER

Being diagnosed with skin cancer can be an alarming experience. You are not alone. Over 3.5 million new cases are diagnosed each year in the U.S. Fortunately, the most common types (basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma) are the most curable. If left untreated, they can grow and involve nearby parts of the body and occasionally spread to distant parts of the body. When Mohs micrographic surgery is used to treat skin cancer, the cure rate may be up to 99%.

## WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

Mohs surgery is an advanced treatment that offers the highest potential cure for most skin cancers while preserving the healthy tissue surrounding the cancer. Mohs surgery is unique and effective because of the way the removed tissue is microscopically examined, evaluating 100% of the surgical margins.

After the area has been numbed, your surgeon removes the visible tumor, along with a thin layer of surrounding tissue. The tissue is then frozen and put on slides for your surgeon to examine under a microscope. If the surgeon sees evidence of cancer around the outer edges of the removed tissue, they take another layer of tissue from the area where the cancer was detected. This ensures that only cancerous tissue is removed during the procedure, minimizing the loss of healthy tissue. Your surgeon repeats these steps until all samples are free of cancer. Once the skin cancer is removed completely, the wound will be repaired. This usually requires stitches.

## PREPARING FOR MOHS SURGERY

During the preoperative consultation, the doctor will clinically assess the extent of your tumor to aid in planning your surgery. It is important to bring a complete list of your medications and allergies. It is common to undergo the surgical procedure on the same day as your consultation, however your surgery may be done at a later date if necessary. No special preparations are required prior to surgery.

- Allow for 3-5 hours in the office for the surgery.
- You may bring a family member or friend. It is best if you have someone drive you to and from your surgical appointment.
- Eat as you normally would the day of surgery.
- Take your usual prescription medications the day of surgery and bring any additional medication that you require during the day.
  - If you require a preoperative antibiotic, please take it one hour prior to your appointment time.
- Avoid wearing make-up the day of surgery.
- Bring something to read if you wish



## **Expectations for After Surgery:**

You will require a bandage following surgery and may have to limit activities such as exercise and household duties. You may experience mild pain or discomfort of the surgical wound. In almost all cases, stitches will be required to repair the wound, and you will need the stitches removed in 7-14 days. It is best if you remain in the local area until the stitches are removed.

For more information on Mohs micro-graphic surgery or skin cancer, please go to :

[www.skincancermohssurgery.org](http://www.skincancermohssurgery.org)

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## **MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY**

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