



Mohs Micrographic Surgery

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a technique named after the surgeon who developed it. It is a procedure we often recommend for treatment of cancers on the scalp and face. We may also recommend this surgery for cancers not on these areas, depending on the size, location or other characteristics of the cancer.

Mohs surgery is typically performed by a dermatologist who does specialty training in this procedure. It is usually a same day surgery that will be performed with local anesthesia (just like how the biopsy was done). The actual length of the procedure will depend on your individual cancer and how many stages are required to completely remove your cancer.

The cancer will be removed in stages. Initially, the visible cancer with a small surrounding area of skin will be removed. This 'layer' will be frozen and evaluated under the microscope to look for any remaining cancer at the edge of the removed area. If cancer is still present at the edge of the initial stage, then a second removal will be done. This will continue until all of the cancer is completely removed and the margins are clear. At this point the resulting surgical defect will be addressed. This may be handled in various ways and will be a discussion you have with your Mohs surgeon.

An exceptional cosmetic outcome is definitely desirable, but the primary benefit of this surgery is the excellent cure rate of the skin cancer. The technique allows for all of the skin edges to be evaluated to ensure that no cancer remains. Thus, Mohs surgery has a success rate of approximately 98%.

If this procedure is recommended for you, we will facilitate your referral to have the treatment performed. Further information and details of the procedure will be provided by your Mohs surgeon. We will also be happy to answer any other questions you may have.