



## ABOUT MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is an outpatient procedure with the highest cure rate for many common skin cancers. This procedure is done in stages, including lab work, while the patient waits. This allows the removal of all cancerous cells for the highest cure rate while sparing healthy tissue and leaving the smallest possible scar, making MOHS surgery the gold standard for treating many skin cancers. The dermatologist performing this procedure acts as the surgeon removing the cancer, the pathologist testing the sample, and the surgeon who closes the wound.

Depending on the location of your skin cancer, you may be able to wear your clothes but you may be required to change into a gown. The dermatologist examines the spot being excised and may mark it with a pen for reference. The doctor positions you for best access, which may mean sitting up or lying down. A surgical drape is placed over the area. If your skin cancer is on your face, you may not be able to see what's happening, but the doctor talks you through it. The surgeon then injects a local anesthesia, which numbs the area completely allowing you to stay awake throughout the procedure.

The doctor performing the procedure will repeat the excision and lab work process until all of the cancer is removed. Once the site is clear of all cancer cells, the wound may be left open to heal or the surgeon may close it with stitches. In some cases, your Mohs surgeon may coordinate the repair of your wound with another specialist if necessary. In most instances, however, the Mohs surgeon will repair the wound immediately after removing the cancer.

If more than one or two rounds are needed, the entire process can take up to several hours, so be prepared. However, the time spent is worth the results as this technique has the highest cure rate of any treatment method, saves the greatest amount of healthy tissue, and leaves the smallest scar possible. Carefully follow your doctor's instructions for wound care, scar care, and follow-up to achieve the best outcome.

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