

MOHS Micrographic Surgery Information

Mohs micrographic surgery has the highest cure rate for basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas and is the treatment of choice for locally recurrent skin cancers, offering cure rates of 95 to 97 percent.

WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

Mohs surgery is unique in its precision. Instead of removing the whole clinically visible tumor and a large area of normal-appearing skin around it, the Mohs surgeon removes the minimum amount of healthy tissue and totally removes the cancer. Thin layers of tissue are systematically excised and examined under a microscope for malignant cells. When all areas of tissue are tumor-free, surgery is complete.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

The technique has several major advantages. It preserves more normal tissue than any other method while at the same time allowing Dr. Jochen to trace and eradicate areas of tumor that are invisible to the naked eye. After examining the tissue under a microscope, we will know exactly how far the tumor extends.

WILL I NEED A DRIVER TO AND FROM MY SURGERY?

In our office we use local anesthesia, not general anesthesia. Most patients can drive themselves to and from the appointment unless the area being treated is around the eye area that can temporarily affect vision.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE LAST?

Although Mohs surgery can take longer than other techniques to perform, advances in technology, such as automated staining of tissue samples, have made it quicker. While it is impossible to predict exactly what timeframe to expect for each Mohs surgery procedure, the entire procedure usually lasts several hours. In our office we ask our patients to anticipate being in our office for up to 6 hours.

WILL MOHS SURGERY LEAVE A SCAR?

As will any treatment for skin cancer, Mohs surgery will leave a scar. Mohs surgery preserves as much healthy skin as possible and maximizes options for repairing the surgical defect, once the tumor is completely removed. Once the Mohs surgeon has completely removed your skin cancer through Mohs surgery, reconstruction for optimizing the final functional and cosmetic result becomes the highest priority. Dr. Timothy Jochen and his team of professionals take pride of their high patient satisfaction due to minimal scarring after surgery.

IS THERE ANY PREPERATIONS THAT NEED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE SURGERY?

There are no eating restrictions for your surgery. We encourage you to eat a healthy breakfast on the morning of your surgery. We recommend that you dress in comfortable clothes. We suggest that you bring a sweater or jacket as the waiting room may be cool. It is not necessary that you have someone accompany you on the day of surgery. Take your regularly prescribed medications as they have been prescribed. It is advised for patients to discontinue blood thinning medication with approval from their primary physician. If you have any questions please contact our office immediately.