

## WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER MOHS SURGERY

- **Pain:** Prescription pain medication is usually not needed but will be offered.
- **Bleeding and Bruising:** Continue any medicines that were prescribed by your doctor, including blood thinners. Please avoid fish oil pills, over the counter pain medications, and alcohol during the week before surgery as these can cause bleeding.
- **Infection:** Infection is rare but possible with any type of surgery or injury to the skin. You will be given written instructions for wound care and antibiotics to minimize the risk of infection.
- **Scar:** All types of skin surgery will result in a scar. Reconstructive surgery and proper wound care at home will help minimize the appearance of the scar. Your surgeon may also perform scar revision surgery or treatments starting about 1 month after your Mohs surgery.
- **Cancer recurrence:** The cure rate for Mohs surgery is very high (up to 99%), but there is a small chance that the surgery may not completely remove the cancer and the cancer may grow back.
  - *For this reason, we recommend you visit your regular dermatologist for routine skin examinations.*
- **Nerve damage/Numbness:** Surgery can damage the nerve endings in the skin and lead to numbness in the area. Numbness will often improve over time. For cancers with more extensive involvement, there is a slight risk that surgery and reconstruction can damage nerves that can lead to paralysis of some the muscles in the area. The Mohs team will discuss any such risks with you.

## DIRECTIONS TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

We are located at 1235 Lake Pointe Parkway, Suite 200 in Sugar Land, TX 77478

We are conveniently located off US-59 South in Sugar Land, TX.

Take US-59 South and exit TX-6. Turn right on Lake Pointe Pkwy. We are located just passed Creekway Drive on the right across from St. Luke's Hospital.

If you reach Creek Bend Dr., you've gone too far.

## PREPARING FOR MOHS SURGERY

A PATIENT GUIDE TO MOHS SURGERY



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**AD** **ADVANCED DERMATOLOGY**

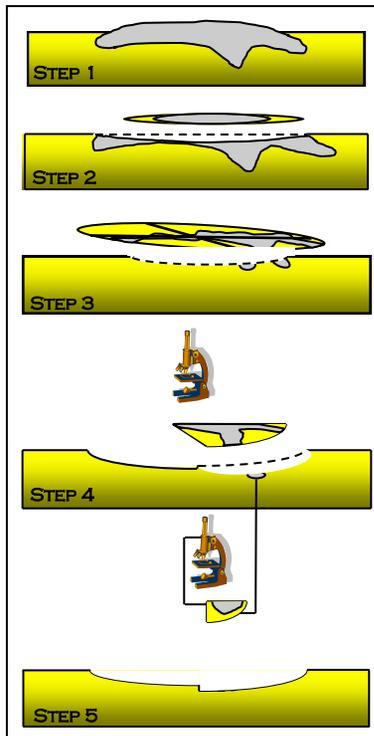
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## INTRODUCTION TO MOHS SURGERY

Mohs Micrographic surgery is named after the it's creator, Dr. Fredrick Mohs. It is a state-of-the-art treatment for skin cancers with roots that extend below the skin surface that are not visible to the naked eye. It is a specialized form of surgery where the Mohs surgeon acts as the physician, surgeon, and pathologist at the same time. Dr. Ahern and Dr. Price are fellows of the most respected and prestigious Mohs surgery organization in the world, the American College of Mohs Surgery. Membership in this organization is only presented to board certified dermatologists who have successfully completed an additional year of intensive surgical training.

## HOW IS MOHS SURGERY PREFORMED?

- The visible edges of the skin cancer are marked out on the surface of the skin.
- The skin around the skin cancer is numbed with a local anesthetic.
- The visible portion of the cancer is surgically removed.
- A thin layer of normal appearing tissue is removed and divided into sections. The Mohs surgeon color codes each of these sections with color dyes and makes marks on the skin to show the source of the sections.
- A map of the surgical site is drawn.
- A temporary bandage is placed over the wound.
- The edges of the tissue are examined while the patient waits. The surgeon checks the entire undersurface (margins) of the sections under the microscope.
- If cancer cells are at the edges of the margins, these are precisely marked on the map.
- If the margins are positive for cancer, additional anesthetic is injected into the wound. Additional tissue in the areas of positive margins is removed and is examined under the microscope.
- The process is repeated until there is no longer any evidence of cancer at the margins.



## WHEN IS MOHS SURGERY USED?

Mohs surgery is effective for treating many types of skin cancer and is gold standard for Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma, the two most common forms of skin cancer. Mohs surgery can also be used to treat other less common skin cancers.

Mohs surgery is the treatment of choice when:

- the cancer is large
- the edges of the cancer cannot be clearly defined
- the skin cancer is in an area of the body where it is important to preserve healthy tissue for maximum functional and cosmetic result
- the skin cancer is likely to recur if treated by common treatment methods
- the skin cancer has recurred or has not been completely removed using other common treatment methods

## ADVANTAGES OF MOHS SURGERY

- Mohs surgery has the highest cure rates of all the treatments that are currently available to treat skin cancer (up to 99% for some cancers).
- The tissue is examined while the patient waits, and we have an answer right way if the margins are clear of cancer.
- Mohs surgery spares normal tissue. Skin is removed in thin layers according to here cancer cells are seen at the margins.
- Surgery is usually performed in the outpatient surgery clinic. This is safer and more cost effective than hospital based care.
- Surgery is performed using local anesthesia and the patient is awake during surgery. Local anesthesia avoids many of the risks of general anesthesia.

## RECONSTRUCTION

After the skin cancer has been removed, there will be a defect (hole) at the site of surgery. The defect is repaired using plastic surgery techniques on the same day. The doctor will discuss your options and present his assessment of what will produce the best functional and cosmetic outcome. Rarely, you will be sent to an outside specialist for repair of the cancer defect.