

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO MOHS: PROCEDURE, AFTERCARE, AND PREPARING FOR SURGERY

WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

MOHS is a surgical technique used to remove skin cancer, **known for its effectiveness**. The procedure is performed in stages, where thin layers of cancerous skin are cut away. Each layer is closely examined for any signs of cancer, and the process continues until all cancer cells are gone. This ensures the **highest cure rate** while preserving healthy tissue and **minimizing scarring**.



PROCEDURE DETAILS

On the day of the surgery, you will receive local anesthesia, **remaining awake throughout the procedure**. The surgery is conducted in stages within a single visit, with waiting periods between each stage. After removing a layer of tissue, it is processed in our on-site lab, and the surgeon examines it under a microscope. If any cancer cells are found, further tissue is precisely removed from that specific area. This **process repeats until no cancer cells remain**. Once the cancer is fully removed, your wound is closed with sutures.

PREPARING FOR SURGERY

- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Bring a snack or beverage.
- Dress comfortably and bring a jacket.
- Bring entertainment while you wait (a book, Kindle, iPad, etc.) Our free guest WIFI is available.
- Continue regularly prescribed medications.
- BLOOD THINNERS:** You may continue blood thinners or aspirin if it has been prescribed by your physician.

DURATION OF PROCEDURE

The exact duration of a MOHS appointment cannot be determined precisely due to the meticulous nature of the process. Each stage takes about an hour. The surgery itself lasts for 10 to 20 minutes, with an additional 40 to 50 minutes for tissue examination. In most cases, the procedure is completed in **less than four hours, but it is advisable to plan for an entire day**.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY

- Maximum discomfort should occur in the first few days, improving each day thereafter.
- Some bruising, swelling, numbness, tightness, and tenderness are expected for 10-14 days.
- Sensation around the surgical area may be decreased and may or may not fully return.
- Sutures will need to stay dry for 24-48 hours.
- After 48 hours, ointment and a regular bandaid may be used for about a week.
- Having gauze, bandages, and Aquaphor or Vaseline on hand in advance can be beneficial.
- In case the bandages start coming off before the advised time, **the office is open Monday - Saturday and ready to assist with a quick bandage change if needed!**

AFTERCARE AND FOLLOW UP

After the surgery, you will schedule an appointment for wound assessment, management, and suture removal. Follow-up visits will be arranged as necessary. You will receive printed wound care instructions and any required prescriptions.

In case of any complications following the procedure, call our office and come in for a wound check. You will also have access to the surgeon's direct cell phone number for direct communication.