

## **What is Mohs Surgery?**

Mohs surgery is a sophisticated procedure for treating skin cancer during which the surgeon removes the tumor and a very small margin surrounding it. The tissue is then processed in an on-site lab while the patient waits. The surgeon is also trained to act as the pathologist and evaluates the entire margin of tissue under the microscope. If there is any remaining skin cancer, the surgeon can map out exactly where the residual tumor is on the patient's skin, and remove more skin only in that location. The process is repeated until all skin cancer has been removed.

## **What are the benefits of Mohs Surgery?**

- Highest cure rate of any procedure for skin cancer
- Smallest possible wound after tumor is removed
- Optimal cosmetic result
- Convenience: cancer is removed in one outpatient treatment session
- Cost-effective: fewer cancer recurrences and fewer follow-up visits
- Safe: avoids the risks of general anesthesia

## **Who performs Mohs Surgery?**

Dr. David Fieleke completed a Mohs surgery fellowship in 2013-2014 and has been performing the procedure since that time. Training programs (fellowships) are developed to provide highly qualified applicants the opportunity to receive advanced training in Mohs surgery. During these fellowships, an entire year is spent learning the intricacies of performing Mohs surgery as well as reconstruction of wounds following tumor removal. At Cornerstone Dermatology & Surgery Group, you can be confident that you will receive expert care that is individualized to your needs.

## **How should I prepare for the procedure?**

Please see the instructions included with this information for preparing for Mohs surgery. Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

## **What should I expect the day of surgery?**

The site to be treated is confirmed, prepped with surgical scrub, then numbed with local anesthesia. Dr. Fieleke will then remove the area that is known to be skin cancer. The tissue is brought to our on-site lab where it is processed for microscopic evaluation.

During processing, you will be able to wait in our comfortable surgery waiting room. TV and wifi will be available. We suggest bringing a book, tablet, laptop, etc. to help you pass the time. Water, coffee, and snacks will also be available.

The processing time varies, but generally takes 60-90 minutes. Once processing is complete, Dr. Fieleke will evaluate the entire margin of tissue under the microscope. If there is any skin cancer remaining, the site of involvement will be mapped and oriented so that a second layer of tissue can be removed only where the cancer was found. These steps will be repeated until all skin cancer has been removed.

## **How does the wound heal?**

Once the skin cancer is clear, Dr. Fieleke will evaluate the wound and determine the best approach for getting the wound to heal as quickly as possible with the best cosmetic result. Most commonly, we are able to stitch the wound together. For shallow wounds in certain locations, we allow the body to heal on its own. Occasionally, skin flaps or grafts are required. Dr. Fieleke will discuss the best possibilities for your wound with you during the procedure. Dr. Fieleke is fully trained to repair the vast majority of wounds that result from Mohs surgery. In some instances, we will arrange for another provider (such as a plastic surgeon) to repair the wound, especially if the need for general anesthesia is anticipated.

We prefer you take it easy for 48-72 hours after the surgery. This will help prevent complications such as bleeding or wound opening, and it will also allow for the best cosmetic result once healing is complete. Activity will need to be limited for 2 weeks after surgery. Please ask if you have specific questions about limitations.

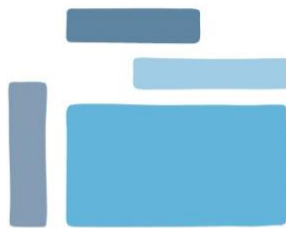
## **What happens after Mohs surgery?**

You will receive detailed wound instructions after your procedure is complete. We will review the instructions with you the day of the surgery, but if you have any questions after you are home, please never hesitate to call us. As noted above, please plan to limit any heavy lifting, exercise, bending, or other strenuous activities for 2 weeks after surgery.

We will follow-up with you to evaluate the wound and/or remove sutures. The length of time involved and number of follow-up appointments depends of the size and location of the wound and the type of repair that was performed.

Even after sutures are removed, the appearance of the surgery site will continue to improve for 6-12 months. Dermabrasion or scar revision can be considered after a period of time, though it is generally not necessary. While some form of a scar is inevitable, we make every effort to minimize any long-lasting effects from the surgery.

We look forward to caring for you. We hope you will found our office to be a comfortable setting. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your experience better!



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