



## Mohs Micrographic Surgery: What to Expect on the Day of Surgery

- Please plan on spending most of the day at our office. You may bring a lunch or snacks to eat throughout the day.
- After you are brought into the surgery room, your skin will be cleaned. The area around your skin cancer will be carefully numbed with a local injection to minimize your discomfort.
- It takes about 45 minutes to numb and remove the first section of skin (Stage One of Mohs surgery).
- After the First Stage, a dressing will be applied to your wound and your tissue is immediately brought to our adjacent Mohs Laboratory.
- During this time (60-90 minutes), microscope slides are being made and examined by the Mohs surgeon to determine if the margins are free of tumor.
- If all of the cancer was removed, we will discuss closing the wound and wound care. Typically the repair of your wound will be performed the same day; however, occasionally your wound may be repaired at a scheduled appointment the following day. If there are cancer cells remaining, we begin Stage Two of Mohs Surgery.
- The skin is again cleaned, numbed, and only the areas with remaining skin cancer are removed (45 minutes).
- A bandage is applied.
- Again, microscope slides are made of your tissue and examined by the Mohs Surgeon to determine if the margins are free of tumor. (Another 60-90 minutes).
- If skin cancer remains at the margins, we begin Stage Three of Mohs Surgery. This process continues until the microscope slides come back without cancer and all margins are free of tumor. If the margins are free, we discuss reconstruction options.
- Each patient and cancer type varies. The length of time for your procedure unfortunately can not be predicted. For this reason we recommend that you plan on being here for the entire day. We may send you to lunch between stages. Your wound will not be closed until we are sure that the margins are free of skin cancer by examination under the microscope.

Steven J. Goulder, MD, FACMS, FAAD, FASDS

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