



THE DERMATOLOGY CLINIC
OF ARKANSAS

MOHS SURGERY (PRE-OPERATIVE)

Mohs Surgery is a specialized technique for the removal of different types of skin cancers, developed over forty years ago by Dr. Fredric Mohs at the University of Wisconsin.

Each year, over 500,000 new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed. Many of these are adequately treated by simple surgical excision or electrodesiccation and curettage. Recent tumors and those in high risk locations are best treated by Mohs surgery.

The method requires both sequential excision of tissue and preparation of special frozen sections for microscopic examination under local anesthesia in the following steps:

1. The area is anesthetized using a long acting local anesthetic.
2. A thin layer of tissue surrounding and including the tumor is excised.
3. A dressing is applied to the area and patients are able to rest in the reception area while the next step of the process takes place. This will take approximately 45-60 minutes.
4. A map is drawn that corresponds exactly to the patient's tumor.
5. The excised tissue is sectioned and given a number which is indicated on the map.
6. Sections are frozen, including the peripheral margins.
7. Each section is examined under the microscope by your doctor. If the tumor is still present on any section, it is marked on its corresponding section of the map.
8. Because the map corresponds exactly to the patient's tumor, one can go back to the patient and locate the exact area where the skin cancer was found on the section microscopically. If necessary, another thin layer is removed from the appropriate location.
9. The entire procedure is repeated until all areas are free of cancer.
10. The greatest advantage of this process is the ability to give you the highest cure rate possible while providing maximum conservation of normal skin for the best cosmetic result.
11. The defect that remains will be repaired at the earliest date, often the same day if possible.

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12. You will need to stop _____ medication for (5) days prior to your scheduled appointment for surgery. All other routine medication should be continued.

13. Because of the meticulous and time-consuming nature of this process, you should plan to spend the day in our office. You should eat a good breakfast and bring a companion or some reading material with you. You will be able to drive yourself home as long as you do not receive any prescription pain medication. However, we do suggest someone drive you.

14. Mohs surgery in this office is performed by Dr. Adam Stibich, Dr. Stephen Mason, Dr. Dow Stough & Dr. Martin Johnson.

15. You may have a preexisting condition that requires you to take an oral antibiotic. If this is the case, you will be given a prescription and directions on its use. It is important to remember that you will begin taking the antibiotic the day before surgery and will continue to take it for a total of seven days.

16. If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, please telephone our office and ask to speak with a nurse.

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