



Mohs Surgery Information and Instructions

Your physician has recommended **Mohs surgery** to treat your skin cancer. This specialized technique, developed by Dr. Frederic Mohs in the 1930s, is now the gold standard of treatment and offers the **highest possible cure rate** while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible.

How Mohs Surgery Works

- The cancer is removed one thin layer at a time.
- Each layer is processed and examined under a microscope while you remain in the office.
- If cancer cells remain, the exact location is identified, and another precise layer is removed.
- This process continues until no cancer cells are detected.

While removing each layer only takes a few minutes, processing and examining the tissue can take about 2 hours per stage. Multiple stages may be required. As a result, you may need to spend several hours with us to clear your tumor and repair the defect. **Please do not schedule other appointments/engagements the day of your surgery.**

After surgery, there will be a wound. Your surgeon (Dr. Allen or Dr. Book) will discuss the best healing option for you, which may include:

- Natural healing
- Sutures (primary closure)
- Skin graft
- Skin flap

The decision depends on the size and location of the final wound once all cancer is removed.

Before Surgery

- **Bathing/Eating:** Please shower/wash hair and eat normally the morning of surgery unless otherwise directed.
- **Medications:**
 - Continue all regularly prescribed medications unless otherwise directed.
 - Avoid Aleve or Ibuprofen for 7 days prior to surgery, if able.
 - Aspirin:
 - If prescribed for heart disease → continue taking it.

- If for prevention only (no prior heart attack or stroke) → stop 7 days prior.
- If you take **blood thinners** (e.g., Coumadin, Plavix, Eliquis), **continue as prescribed** unless otherwise directed.
- Please notify our nurse if you have a history of excessive bleeding during past procedures.

During Surgery

- The procedure is performed in our office's Mohs surgery suite.
 - Your surgeon will review the procedure and then numb the area with local anesthesia (Lidocaine).
 - After tissue is removed, the area is cauterized to control bleeding and covered with a bandage while slides are created in our lab and reviewed your Mohs surgeon.
 - If additional stages are needed, the process will be repeated.
 - Once the site is cancer-free, most wounds are repaired the same day.
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Day of Surgery: What to Expect

- Plan to spend **the entire day** in our office.
 - Each stage requires waiting time between tissue removal and examination.
 - While waiting, you'll sit in our Mohs lounge. The temperature can vary in our surgical suites, so consider wearing layers and bringing a sweater to ensure your comfort.
 - **Meals & Comfort:**
 - Eat a good breakfast before arrival unless otherwise directed.
 - You are welcome to bring snacks or lunch.
 - Coffee, drinks, and light snacks are provided.
 - Bring a book, magazine, or activity to help pass the time. Please bring headphones if you plan to watch anything with audio.
 - If you use an oxygen tank, please bring a backup battery/enough oxygen to last the day
 - **Transportation:**
 - You may drive yourself unless the surgical site is near the eye or sedation is needed—then a driver is required.
 - You may bring **one adult companion**, who may stay with you or return later for pick-up.
 - Patients prone to disorientation/confusion should have a companion with them at all times.
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After Surgery

- You will receive detailed **post-operative instructions** before leaving.
- Swelling and bruising around the site may last **1–2 weeks**.

- Depending on the location, swelling or dressings may affect glasses or vision.
 - **Suture removal** is usually needed in **1–2 weeks**, depending on your surgeon's recommendation.
 - A bandage will be required for **24 hours up to 1 week**, depending on your repair type.
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Questions or Scheduling

- Call our office at **(479) 876-8550** (8:00 am–4:30 pm)
- For direct Mohs coordinator assistance, call **(479) 876-8493**.
 - o If unavailable, please **leave a voicemail** and your call will be returned at the next available desk day for the Mohs coordinator
- Once your provider refers you for Mohs surgery, scheduling may take up to **2 weeks** due to case review and coordination