

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY AND REPAIR WITH DR. JAMES ROSING

Mohs micrographic surgery is an approximately two hour surgical procedure performed in a Mohs trained dermatologist office. The site to be treated will be injected with a local anesthetic. The dermatologist will then remove a level of tissue from the affected area which will be examined typically at an in-office laboratory. If the tissue shows no residual cancer cells, the Mohs excision is complete. If any section of the tissue demonstrates cancer cells at the margin, the surgeon returns to that specific area of the tumor, as indicated by the map, and removes another thin layer of tissue only from the precise area where cancer cells were detected. The newly excised tissue is again mapped, color-coded, processed and examined for additional cancer cells. If microscopic analysis still shows evidence of disease, the process continues layer-by-layer until the cancer is completely removed.

Once complete excision is achieved, a bandage will then be placed over the defect and the patient will then move to Dr. Rosing's office at 1441 Avocado Ave. Ste. 706 where he will perform the repair. Once arriving at Dr. Rosing's office, the patient will be brought back to a procedure room where additional local anesthetic will be applied followed by repair. Stitches may be used to close the wound side-to-side, or a skin graft or a flap may be designed to transfer adjacent tissue. In some cases, a wound may be allowed to heal naturally, referred to as healing by secondary intention.

Each level of tissue is analyzed in our laboratory while you wait. This requires approximately 30 to 45 minutes per level. During this time you will be comfortably seated in our suite waiting room or remain in your exam room, so bring a good book or something to keep you occupied while you are waiting. Please plan on being here between 2-5 hours.

Because you will be injected with a local anesthetic only, there are no dietary restrictions. We suggest that you have breakfast and take your usual medications, except for medications that may thin the blood (see next paragraph). Most patients can drive themselves home after the surgery. If the skin cancer is near the eye, please arrange for someone to drive you.

Please refrain from taking any medication containing aspirin for at least two weeks prior to surgery. Aspirin thins the blood, which increases bleeding during and after the surgical procedure. If you are taking any medications which may thin the blood (including aspirin, ibuprofen or coumadin), please contact the doctor who prescribed the medication to discuss permission to discontinue the blood-thinning medication. If the prescribing doctor wants you to continue taking one of these medications please let our office know. If you feel anxious about the procedure we can offer you a mild sedative at the time of your procedure, however you will need to arrange for a ride home in this case.

Plan to be in town for at least one week following your surgical procedure; sutures are usually removed one week after surgery. You will be required to return to our office for surgical post-operative visits and suture removal. You may discuss any additional questions regarding your surgery or any other issue concerning your treatment with Dr. Rosing.