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Overview of Mohs Micrographic Surgery

Originally developed in the 1930s, Mohs micrographic surgery has been refined into the most advanced, precise, and effective treatment for an increasing variety of skin cancer types. With the Mohs technique, physicians can precisely identify and remove an entire tumor while leaving the surrounding healthy tissue intact and unharmed.

Success Rate of Mohs Surgery

The Mohs procedure involves surgically removing skin cancer layer by layer and examining the tissue under a microscope until healthy, cancer-free tissue around the tumor is reached (called clear margins). Because a Mohs surgeon is specially trained as a cancer surgeon, pathologist, and reconstructive surgeon, Mohs surgery has the highest success rate of all treatments for skin cancer – up to 99%.

Advantages of Mohs Surgery

Mohs surgery is unique and so effective because of the way the removed tissue is microscopically examined, evaluating 100% of the surgical margins. The pathologic interpretation of the tissue margins is done on site by Dr. Becker, who is specially trained in the reading of these slides and is best able to correlate any microscopic findings with the surgical site on the patient. Advantages of Mohs surgery include:

- Ensuring complete cancer removal, virtually eliminating the chance of the cancer growing back
- Minimizing the amount of healthy tissue lost
- Maximizing the functional and cosmetic outcome resulting from surgery
- Repairing the site of the cancer the same day the cancer is removed, in most cases
- Curing skin cancer when other methods have failed

Other skin cancer treatment methods blindly estimate the amount of tissue to treat, which can result in the unnecessary removal of healthy skin tissue and tumor re-growth if any cancer is missed.

The Mohs Surgery Process

Step 1

The roots of a skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.

Step 2

The visible tumor is surgically removed.

Step 3

A layer of skin is removed and divided into sections. Dr. Becker then color codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of these sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.

Step 4

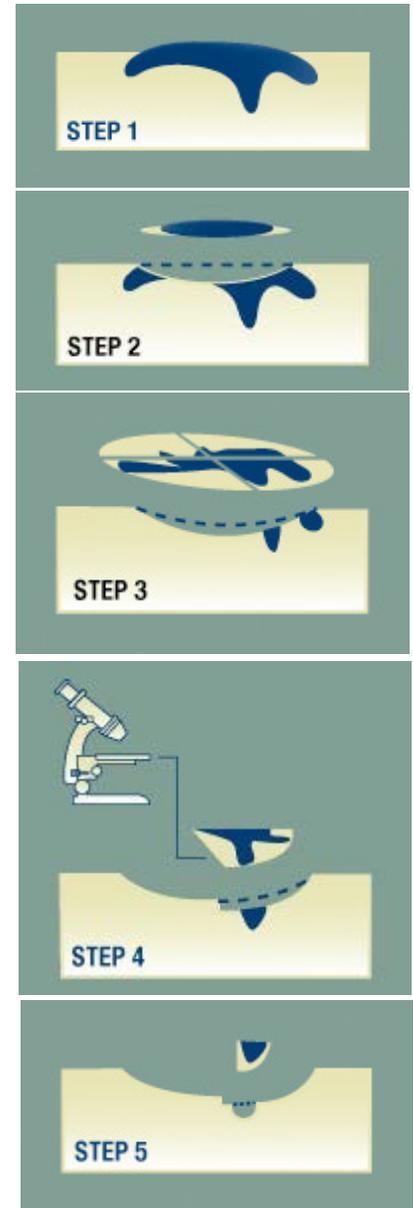
The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.

Step 5

If cancer cells are found under the microscope, Dr. Becker marks their location onto the "map" and returns to the patient to remove another layer of skin - but only from precisely where the cancer cells remain.

Step 6

The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the maximum amount of healthy tissue is kept intact.



Mohs Patient Information

- Expect to be in our office 2 to 6 hours the day of surgery. Do not schedule any other appointments or make other plans. You may bring a snack with you unless you have been instructed not to eat. Reading material is helpful to pass time. Please limit your visitors to no more than two. No one will be able to accompany you into the surgery room, but they will be able to wait in the guest lounge.
- Please make sure to eat breakfast the morning of your surgery. You may have normal meals the day of your surgery unless otherwise instructed. If you are going to a plastic surgeon for your surgical repair the same day, please follow the instructions from their office. In most cases the repairs are completed in our office and a plastic surgeon is not required.
- If you take any blood thinning medication prescribed by your physician, please continue to take your medication as prescribed. If you take **over the counter blood** thinners it is recommended that you discontinue use for 2 weeks prior to your surgery date. (see attached supplement list)
- Shower the evening before or the morning of surgery. Wear comfortable clothing. Please leave all jewelry at home. Do not apply make-up, moisturizers, colognes or aftershave lotions to the surgical site(s) the day of surgery.
- Depending on the location of your surgical lesion, you may need a driver the day of your surgery. If you are being referred to a plastic surgeon for the repair, a driver may be required.
- Please contact our office at (303) 532-2810 if you have any questions or if you have insurance changes between now and the time of your surgery.

Medication Precautions for Skin Surgery Patients

These instructions are to be followed before & after your surgery. If you are on any antirheumatoid, antiarthritic, circulation or anticoagulant medication (Motrin, Naprosyn, Persantine or Coumadin), please inform us.

For a two (2) week period to the scheduled date of your surgery, please do not take any medications that contain aspirin or aspirin related products. Aspirin has an effect on your blood's ability to clot and could increase your tendency to bleed at the time of surgery and during the postoperative period.

Do not take pain medication other than Tylenol for 4 days prior to your surgery.

Please check the labels of all medications that you take, even those available without a prescription, to make sure you are not taking any aspirin or aspirin-like substance. Please consult your physician before stopping any prescribed medication.

The following is a list of the more common medications and substances that can increase your tendency to bleed.

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Advil | Butazolidin | Dolobid | Meclomen | Rufin |
| Alcohol | Brufen | Dristan | Medipren | Sine Off |
| Aleve | Cephalgesic | Easprin | Midol | Sine Aid |
| Alka Seltzer | Cheracol Capsules | Ecotrin | Motrin | Trandate |
| Anacin | Children's Aspirin | Empirin | Nalfon | Trental |
| Anaprox | Clinoril | Emprazil | Naprosyn | Trigesic |
| APC | Congesprin | Excedrin | Norgesic | Trilisa |
| 5A.S.A. | Cope | Feldene | Orudis | Vanquish |
| Ascodeen | Coricidin | Fiorinal | Percodan | Vitamin E |
| Ascriptin | Coumadin | 4-Way Cold Tabs | Phenaphen | Voltaren |
| Aspergum | Darvon | Ibuprofen | Phenergan | Zactri |
| Aspirin | Darvon with A.S.A. | Indocino | Relafen | Zorprin |
| Bufferin | Daypro | Indomethacin | Robasisal | |

If you need a minor pain medication, please take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or a non-aspirin medication. Tylenol or Anacin-3 are available at your local pharmacy without a prescription and have

a comparable pain relief potential to that of aspirin. If you are allergic to acetaminophen or unable to take it for other reasons, please notify us so we may arrange for a suitable substitute.

Dietary Supplements with Anticoagulant Activity

Botanical Supplement

Common Use

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Bilberry | Acute diarrhea, diabetic retinopathy |
| Black currant | Increases micturition, gout, colic, jaundice |
| Bladderwrack | Obesity, diseases of thyroid, arteriosclerosis |
| Cayenne fruit | Gastro protective agent, muscular tension, rheumatism |
| Celery plant | Diuretic, glandular stimulation, gall & kidney stones |
| Da huang | Laxative, gastrointestinal disorder |
| Danshen | Cardiovascular and Liver disease, Glaucoma, Cholesterol |
| Devil's Claw | Rheumatism, loss of appetite, dyspeptic complaints |
| Dong quai | Stabilizes hormonal imbalances, muscular tension |
| Evening primrose seed oil | Atopic dermatitis, premenstrual syndrome, mastalgia |
| Fever few | Migraines, arthritis, fever |
| Garlic | Antibacterial, antifungal, hypertension |
| German Chamomile | Inflammatory disease of gastrointestinal tract |
| Ginger | Nausea, vomiting, gastrointestinal complaints |
| Ginkgo | Cerebral circulation, vertigo, tinnitus |
| Panax ginseng | Fatigue, debility, stamina |
| Horse chestnut | Chronic venous insufficiency, swelling of legs |
| Kava Kava Root | Sleeping agent, sedative, syphilis, gonorrhea |
| Licorice | Gastrointestinal ulcers, bronchitis |
| Meadowsweet | Bronchitis, cough, cold therapy, diuretic |
| Papaya | Gastrointestinal complaints, ulcers, intestinal parasites |
| Poplar | Hemorrhoids, wound, burns, pain therapy |
| Red clove | Respiratory, conditions, coughs |
| Sweet clover | Hemorrhoids, blunt injuries, venous conditions |
| Tamarind | Chronic and acute constipation, gallbladder ailments |
| Vitamin E | Alzheimer's dementia, heart disease, prostate cancer |
| Willow bark | Anti-inflammatory, arthritis, pain therapy |