

Redwood Family Dermatology

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What is Mohs Surgery?

Mohs micrographic or microscopically controlled surgery is a way to remove skin cancer. It was developed by Dr. Frederick Mohs. It has been proven to be the most effective way to remove your type of skin cancer.

How should I prepare for my surgery?

Take your regular medications the morning of your surgery. Eat a normal breakfast. If you are taking aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), or a blood thinning medication such as Coumadin ask us for instructions. If you are feeling anxious/nervous, we can dispense Valium in the office to help you relax. Please inform the medical assistant when you arrive if you feel this will help.

What should I bring to the clinic?

- You may bring a friend or relative to keep you company and drive you home if you would like
- Bring all the medications you may need for the day. Even “as needed” medications such as insulin or nitroglycerin *must* be brought with you in their labeled bottles or tubes.
- Bring a book or other reading materials you enjoy to help pass the time.
- Bring a lunch/snack as *you could be here all day*.
- Bring your insurance card/information.

What will happen?

- You will be given a health history form to fill out.
- You will meet your medical assistant who will take your vitals.
- The doctor will clean and numb the area of skin cancer with a medication called lidocaine.
- Your skin cancer and a small amount of surrounding tissue will be removed.
- Your wound will be bandaged and you will be sent to the waiting room while your tissue is being processed. The tissue processing time may vary between 1-4 hours. The procedure could take most of the day. You may have an opportunity to leave the office to get some lunch or walk around. If you choose to leave the office, please notify a staff member before doing so.
- If any cancer is seen, the process is repeated until all of the cancer is removed
- The doctor will then close the wound where the cancer was removed with stitches or he may discuss other options with you.
- We will take a photo before and after the surgery for your medical records.
- A pressure bandage will be applied over your wound. This is usually changed the next day. The stitches are usually removed 1 week later.
- Instructions will be given to you on how to care for your wound.

What should I do if I have any questions?

Please call our office between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday - Friday.

What if I need to cancel my appointment?

Please notify us as soon as possible so that someone else can be scheduled in your time slot.

Please be prepared to spend the Entire Day at our Office – till 5PM, but we will do our best to get you home as soon as we can. *We will have snacks, juice, and coffee; you are welcome to bring food with you if you'd like. Our waiting room can get chilly; we recommend bringing a light jacket or sweater just in case.*

We look forward to helping you.