

Mohs Micrographic Surgery



We've Got You Covered

WELCOME!

We are pleased that you have chosen Riverchase Dermatology for your surgical care. Our goal is to provide you with the quality care and expertise that you expect and deserve.

We take great pride in our staff's training and professional capabilities. Please feel free to ask any question you may have regarding your medical care, fees, insurance or other office policies. We are concerned about you and welcome any suggestions that will improve the care you receive.



WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

Mohs surgery is a highly specialized treatment for the removal of skin cancer that uses microscopic guidance to decrease the likelihood of leaving behind extensions of cancer while sparing as much healthy skin as possible, leading to the best cosmetic and functional result. This method of skin cancer treatment differs from all others because the surgeon also functions as the pathologist. For more information you can access the American College of Mohs Surgery website at www.mohscollege.org.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MOHS SURGERY?

By using detailed mapping techniques and complete microscopic control, the Mohs surgeon can pinpoint areas involved with cancer that are otherwise invisible to the naked eye. Therefore, even the smallest microscopic roots of cancer can be removed.

WHAT ABOUT THE LABORATORY?

Our Mohs micrographic surgery laboratory is certified by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, and compliant with CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments).

HOW SUCCESSFUL IS MOHS SURGERY?

Using Mohs surgery, the cure rate is more than 99 percent for most skin cancers, even when other forms of treatment have failed. Other methods of treatment only offer approximately 50 percent chance of success if previous treatments have failed.

ARE THERE OTHER METHODS OF TREATING SKIN CANCER?

Excisional surgery, radiation therapy, "scrape and burn," and topical medicines are used in treating skin cancers. Mohs surgery offers the highest cure rate of any treatment option.

WILL I BE HOSPITALIZED?

Mohs surgery is performed in a pleasant outpatient clinic and you may return home that same day. Hospital facilities are available if necessary.

WHAT HAPPENS THE DAY OF THE SURGERY?



The area around the skin cancer is numbed with a local anesthetic. The Mohs surgeon then surgically removes the visible cancer and a thin layer of tissue.



This tissue is carefully mapped and coded by the surgeon and taken to our laboratory.



The technician will immediately process the tissue on to microscope slides. You will have a temporary dressing placed over the wound and you will be free to return to the patient lounge. While the surgical procedure only takes 10 to 15 minutes, it takes a minimum of one to two hours to prepare and microscopically examine the tissues of each layer.



Several surgical stages and microscopic examinations may be required and you will be asked to wait in the patient lounge between stages. Although there is no way to tell before surgery how many stages will be necessary, most cancers are removed in three stages or less.

The most difficult part of the procedure is waiting for the results of the surgery. Since we do not know how much time is necessary to remove the cancer and repair the wound, we ask that you plan to be in the office the entire day and that you make no other commitments.

WILL THE SURGERY LEAVE A SCAR?

Yes. Generally speaking, any form of surgery will leave a scar. Immediately after the cancer is removed, we may choose (1) to leave the wound to heal itself, (2) to repair the wound with stitches (3) to reconstruct the wound with a skin graft or flap. This decision is based on the safest method that will provide the best cosmetic result.

WILL I HAVE PAIN AFTER SURGERY?

If you experience discomfort, Tylenol is typically recommended. If a prescription pain medication is necessary it can be written at the time of your surgery. If you find that you are having unexpected postsurgical pain at home, call the office and ask to speak to your provider, or your provider's medical assistant. If you need us after hours or on the weekend, please call the office and you will be transferred to our emergency answering service.

PREPARING FOR SURGERY

ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS: You will be given activity restrictions after surgery. The length and type of restrictions you receive can involve multiple factors and restrictions can vary. For example, we may advise you to avoid twisting, bending, stretching or any sudden movement or strenuous exercise. We may advise that you elevate your surgical site, sleep in an elevated position or keep your surgical site dry. Please plan your personal calendar accordingly.

ENTERTAINMENT: Since you will be with us all morning and into the afternoon, we recommend bringing entertainment such as reading materials, tablets or crossword puzzles. Wi-Fi is available in our waiting rooms as well as complimentary coffee, snacks and magazines.

PRE & POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: Preoperative instructions are given at the time of surgery scheduling. These instructions may also be repeated if you receive an appointment confirmation call. Postoperative instructions are given at the time of your closure. You should receive written and verbal instructions. Please call the office directly if you have any additional questions.

TRANSPORTATION: We recommend that you have a driver available for pick up and drop off on the day of your surgery. Although this procedure is performed with local anesthetic, it is best that you have assistance to and from the office. If you require the services of a companion, you may bring an additional person with you to our office.

EATING AND DRINKING: Please have your regular breakfast prior to your procedure. We also provide coffee and snacks in our office. We encourage our patients to arrive rested and nourished.

AFTER SURGERY

WILL I NEED TO COME BACK?

Your follow up instructions will be given at the end of your visit and your surgical follow up appointments will be scheduled with us before you leave. Depending on the type of closure, anatomical location and other factors, you may have multiple follow ups. Please let your provider or medical assistant know if you have any questions or concerns.



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