



## Is Mohs Always the Best Option?

Mohs surgery is not the right treatment for every patient or every skin cancer. It's important to consider the type of skin cancer, its location, and your overall health before proceeding with this treatment. Your dermatologist will evaluate all treatment options and help determine the best course of action for you.

## What Is Mohs Surgery?

Mohs surgery—sometimes called “Mohs micrographic surgery”—is a technique used to treat certain types of skin cancer (commonly basal and squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma). The surgery is performed in stages and can typically be completed as an outpatient procedure in a dermatologist's office.



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# Mohs Surgery: Gentle Skin Cancer Treatment



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## Why Mohs Surgery?

Dermatologists recommend Mohs surgery because it preserves as much normal, healthy tissue as possible and has a high cure rate. Mohs surgery is the only treatment method that ensures that all skin cancer cells will be removed before you leave the office.

## What Can Mohs Surgery Treat?

- Certain cases of basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, depending on their size and type
- Cancer in sensitive areas, such as on the face, an ear, a finger, or a toe
- Aggressive or difficult-to-treat skin cancers, such as those that are rapidly growing, are large, have poorly defined borders, or regrow following a previous treatment



## How Is Mohs Surgery Performed?

1. You receive a local anesthetic to numb the surgical area.
2. The Mohs surgeon removes the visible skin cancer.
3. The removed tissue is processed in the lab, and the Mohs surgeon examines it under a microscope to determine if there are any cancer cells remaining at the edge of the removed tissue. The review may take one to two hours. During this time, you wait in the surgical suite or office.
4. If cancer cells are still present at any margin of the removed tissue, the Mohs surgeon continues to remove skin at the location where the cancer cells remain. You wait while the tissue is processed and the Mohs surgeon examines it under a microscope again.
5. This process is repeated until all cancer cells have been removed.
6. Once the surgery is over, your wound may be bandaged and allowed to heal on its own. In some cases, you may need stitches.
7. If you need surgical repair, it will usually be performed on the same day unless the surgeon recommends otherwise.



Mohs surgeons are often board-certified dermatologists with additional training in Mohs surgery. They both perform the surgery and examine the tissue under the microscope to ensure all cancer cells have been removed. Mohs surgeons often have additional training in reconstructive techniques to enhance healing and minimize scarring.

