

What kind of follow-up will I need?

Usually, only one or two return visits are needed to remove stitches or examine the healed surgical site. Afterward, you may return to your referring doctor for routine check-ups.

Will I need a pre-operative visit?

A pre-operative visit is sometimes scheduled, especially for more significant skin cancers or for any patient who would like to be seen before surgery. This visit will allow you to meet your doctor and medical staff. An examination of cancer will be performed, and medical history will be obtained.

What are the risks of surgery?

Although your surgeon will remove as little tissue as possible, there are some general risks associated with surgery. Your doctor will discuss these and any additional problems explicitly related to your situation.



Will the surgery leave a scar?

Yes. Any form of treatment will leave a scar. However, because Mohs surgery removes as little normal tissue as possible, scarring is minimized. Also, complete healing of the surgical site may take up to 12 months. During this time, the surgical site may appear red or may feel swollen or lumpy, particularly in the first few months.

What are the advantages of Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

By using microscopic examination with detailed mapping, 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. The results are:

- **The removal of as little normal skin as possible**
- **The highest possible cure rate for the cancer**

What happens after the skin cancer is removed?

Immediately after the cancer is removed, a decision is made for the best method to reconstruct the wound created by the surgery. Most frequently, the wound is closed with stitches in a side-to-side fashion, by a skin graft or by a skin flap.

Most patients will not require further procedures after the repair of the surgical defect. However, some repairs are completed in two stages, with the second stage occurring two or three weeks after the initial surgery.



MOHS MICROGRAPHIC Surgery

*specializing in dermatologic
and skin cancer surgery*



Bringing You the Highest Level of Care & Compassion

Convenient Locations & Exceptional, Experienced Clinicians

With over 40 years of service, Anne Arundel Dermatology has assembled the finest group of Mohs Surgeons across Maryland and Virginia.

Each of our nine Board-Certified Surgeons is specially trained in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and, combined, our team performs 10,000+ Mohs procedures at our nine surgery centers annually.

In addition to serving our patients, our surgeons welcome referrals for Mohs treatment from many other area dermatologists as well as general physicians.



What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Mohs surgery is a highly specialized treatment for the removal of skin cancer. In a 5-step process, Mohs surgeons use a complete microscopic examination of surgically removed tissue and detailed mapping techniques that allow him or her to track and remove all roots and extensions of the skin cancer.

Step 1

A surgery starts with the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS) specialist examining the visible lesion and planning what tissue to remove. The patient then receives local anesthesia, and the Mohs surgery begins.

Step 2

The surgeon removes the visible portion of the tumor using careful surgical techniques.

Step 3

He or she next removes a deeper layer of skin and divides it into sections. With the help of technicians, the surgeon then color-codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the

skin to show the source of the sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn to track exactly where each small portion of tissue originated.

In a laboratory, the surgeon uses a microscope to examine the undersurface and edges of each section of tissue in search of evidence of remaining cancer.

Step 4

If the surgeon finds cancer cells under the microscope, he or she marks their location on the “map” and returns to the patient to remove another deeper layer of skin - but only from precisely where the cancer cells originated. This method ensures that the Mohs surgery results in the smallest scar possible.

Step 5

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

What is the cure rate?

The cure rate with Mohs Micrographic Surgery is higher than 99%. In previously treated cancers in which the tumor is recurrent, Mohs surgery is 95% effective.