

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

WHAT IS IT?

Mohs micrographic surgery is a specialized procedure for the removal of certain skin cancers. The procedure is named after the originator of the technique, Dr. Frederick Mohs.

The Primary advantage of this type of surgery is that it offers the highest cure rate of all available treatment modalities (97-99%). At the same time, micrographic surgery allows for the selective removal of the areas affected by the skin cancer while preserving as much of the surrounding normal tissue as is possible. This is especially important in areas of high cosmetic significance, such as the face.

WHAT IS THE SURGERY LIKE?

- ❖ The procedure is done using local anesthesia, similar to what would be used for minor dental work.
- ❖ Next, a saucer-shaped piece of tissue is surgically excised around and under the ulcerated area.
- ❖ While you wait, this tissue is then processed in a laboratory and examined by the physician under the microscope. If any cancer cells are seen during the microscope examination, their location is noted on a map and a second layer of additional tissue is taken from the involved area.
- ❖ The entire process is repeated until no tumor cells are seen on the microscope examination. Most cancers are removed in two or three stages requiring approximately one hour per stage. This period includes the time for processing and reviewing of microscopic slides, so most of that time you are not actually having surgery.