



## **Divine Dermatology**

### **About Mohs Surgery**

Mohs surgery is an advanced surgical technique that precisely removes many forms of skin cancer while preserving healthy surrounding tissue. It is done as an outpatient surgery under local anesthesia by dermatology surgeons. Mohs surgery may be used to treat non-melanoma skin cancer where tissue conservation and function is critical and thus is used for skin cancers on the head, neck, face, genitalia, hands and feet and in cases where the cancer is large or recurrent on the body. Other factors such as large size and aggressive features can qualify a concern for mohs surgery.

#### **Mohs technique allows us to:**

- Remove all cancerous cells, including those that may go deeper like a tree's roots and would otherwise be hard to see.
- Spare as much healthy tissue as possible.

#### **Other benefits include:**

- A high cure rate
- Minimal scarring
- A procedure that can be completed in an outpatient office in less than a day.
- A pain-free procedure that uses local anesthesia. This leads to a shorter recovery time at the clinic and less risk.

### **The Process of Mohs Surgery**

#### **During mohs skin cancer surgery, your skin cancer surgeon will:**

- Remove a layer of tissue, and examine it under a microscope.
- If any cancer cells remain, the surgeon knows the exact area where they are and removes another layer of tissue from that precise location, while sparing as much healthy tissue as possible.
- The doctor repeats this process until no cancer cells remain.

### **Risks for Mohs Surgery**

Mohs surgery has a low risk of complications or side effects.

Like any surgery, there will be a scar on the site of surgery that fades over time. There is a small risk of infection or bleeding at the site, and you will be given information on how to contact your health care team if this happens.



APPOINTMENT DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_AM

**To Do List:**

- ☐ From this point on, leave biopsy site open to the air. You can apply a band aid if you would like.
- ☐ If you informed our office that you take Coumadin, please let our office know if your INR is above 4 prior to surgery.
- ☐ Stop smoking at least 2 weeks prior to procedure and while sutures are in place to improve healing.
- ☐ Eat Breakfast, unless instructed otherwise.
- ☐ Take all of your daily medications (including blood thinners, pain medications, blood pressure medications, etc)
- ☐ Bring a sweater or light jacket (the office is cool). Bring a small blanket if needed. Inform any person coming with you to also be prepared.
- ☐ Bring a book, tablet, laptop or something else to keep yourself occupied. The office has wi-fi available. You will be in our office for 2-4 hours. We can't give you a better time estimate until we are midway through your procedure.
- ☐ Wear a button down shirt if treating anything above the waist.
- ☐ You should not wear any moisturizer, aftershave, sunscreen, makeup, or lipstick on the day of your procedure if your skin cancer is on your face.
- ☐ You will need to keep the surgical site dry after the surgery. Therefore, we recommend a thorough bath or shower (including shampoo) on the evening before or morning of your surgery.
- ☐ Although not always necessary, you may want to have someone drive you to and from our office on the day of surgery.

**Additional Information:**

- ☐ Due to necessary follow-up care, please do not make any travel plans for two weeks after the surgery.
- ☐ Plan to avoid strenuous activity and physical exercise until your sutures are removed. This means no golf, tennis, swimming, jogging/running, or any other activity that could cause you to sweat or increase your heart rate.
- ☐ You will leave our office with a bandage (not a band-aid). All post-operative care will be gone over on the day of surgery before you leave.

