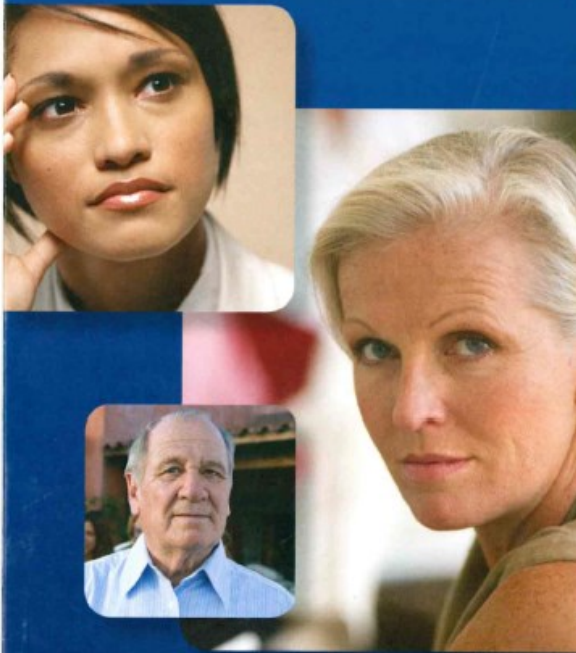


# MOHS

## Micrographic Surgery



You've Been Diagnosed  
With Skin Cancer

## What Now?

**ACMS** American College  
of Mohs Surgery  
*Fellowship trained skin cancer  
and reconstructive surgeons*

## What Now?

If you have been diagnosed with skin cancer, you may be concerned—wondering how this might have happened, what you can do about it and above all, whether you are in serious danger. You are not alone. More than 1.2 million people in the United States are diagnosed with skin cancer each year and most likely have these same concerns.

Members of the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS) also share your concerns. ACMS members are fellowship-trained <sup>(1)</sup> physicians who have the experience and expertise that is necessary to produce optimal outcomes in skin cancer treatment with a procedure known as Mohs Micrographic Surgery. **Mohs Micrographic Surgery offers the highest potential cure rate—99%—for skin cancer.** By removing the least amount of tissue, it also offers superior cosmetic results. ACMS surgeons are also trained in “reconstruction,” which means that they can properly and precisely repair the skin and underlying tissue to eliminate or minimize scarring.

If left untreated, skin cancer can continue to progress and be potentially life-threatening and disfiguring. Don't delay in getting treatment. If you have not already scheduled an appointment with an ACMS surgeon, do so today.

<sup>(1)</sup> Fellowship-trained means that ACMS members have taken a one- to two-year specialized course of training, after they have completed their medical residency, under the tutelage of one or more ACMS surgeons. To become a member of the ACMS, a surgeon must have completed at least 500 cases of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and reconstruction.

## What First? Know the Facts!

### Skin Cancer May Be More Than Meets the Eye

Not all treatments for skin cancer are equal. Some of the most common treatments for skin cancer preferred by many physicians are scraping and burning, freezing, radiation and routine excision. While these remedies may be fine for many cancers, you should understand the advantages of Mohs Micrographic Surgery, a process that will remove all the cancer, minimize the risk of recurrence, and leave as little scarring as possible.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is an advanced technique for treating skin cancer and is best performed by a highly trained and experienced surgeon. You can be assured that members of the American College of Mohs Surgery have this training and experience.

When considering your options, or to understand why a skin cancer has recurred, it is important to recognize that a skin cancer that is visible to you—or even to your physician—may be just the “tip of the iceberg.” You should understand that:

- Not all cancer cells are apparent to the naked eye.
- Many “invisible” cells may form roots or “fingers” of diseased tissue that can extend beyond the boundaries of a visible cancer.
- If all the cancer cells are not completely removed, the cancer will re-grow, making it necessary to have it removed again.



### **The Types of Cancer Most Likely to Warrant Mohs Micrographic Surgery:**

- **Are located in cosmetically sensitive or functionally critical areas around the eyes, nose, lips, scalp, fingers, toes or genitals.**
- **Are large, aggressive, or growing rapidly.**
- **Are recurrent.**
- **Have ill-defined edges.**

For these cancers, common treatment methods are often not successful because they rely on the human eye to determine the extent of the cancer. These methods may remove too little cancer, which can cause it to recur and require additional surgery. It can also result in the removal of too much healthy tissue and may cause unnecessary scarring.

If a cancer has been treated by one of these common methods and it recurs, the chances of it being cured when treated again by one of these same methods becomes even less likely. The scar tissue surrounding a recurrent cancer may hide cancer cells, further complicating the decision of how much tissue to remove.

### **What Next? Put Your Mind at Ease Mohs Micrographic Surgery Is Advanced Treatment that Leaves Healthy Tissue Intact**

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a state-of-the-art treatment for skin cancer in which the physician serves as surgeon, pathologist **and** reconstructive surgeon.

It relies on the accuracy of a map of the diseased tissue area and the precision of a microscope to trace out and ensure complete removal of the skin cancer—down to its roots. Immediate on-site microscopic examination of the tumor allows ACMS fellowship-trained surgeons to see beyond what is visible to the eye and precisely identify the diseased tissue and remove only the diseased tissue. (See the inset opposite this page.)

ACMS fellowship-trained surgeons have extensive training in reconstructive surgery and are generally able to perform the reconstructive surgery immediately after microscopic analysis confirms that the cancer is completely removed. Most ACMS surgeons are dermatologists whose thorough knowledge of the skin and its healing properties helps produce the best cosmetic result possible.

### **What Can You Expect from Mohs Surgery?**

#### **Quick Resolution, Rapid Recovery— Peace of Mind**

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is usually performed on an outpatient basis, in one day, under local anesthesia. The healing process is similar to that of most surgical procedures. **Of all treatments for skin cancer, Mohs Micrographic Surgery offers the highest cure rate (up to 99% for basal and squamous cell carcinomas)** with minimal discomfort and the greatest preservation of normal tissue, thereby minimizing scarring.

## The Mohs Surgery Process



**Step 1:** The roots of a skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.



**Step 2:** The visible portion of the tumor is surgically removed.



**Step 3:** A layer of skin is removed and divided into sections. The ACMS surgeon then color codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of these sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.



**Step 4:** The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.



**Step 5:** If cancer cells are found under the microscope, the ACMS surgeon marks their location onto the "map" and returns to the patient to remove another layer of skin - but only from precisely where the cancer cells remain.

**Step 6:** The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the maximum amount of healthy tissue is kept intact.

## Who Provides Mohs Surgery? The Fellowship-Trained Surgeons of the American College of Mohs Surgery Are a Sensible Choice for Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

The American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS) is dedicated to advancing the highest standards of training and care in Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Only the ACMS requires physicians to complete a one- or two-year post-residency fellowship at an ACMS-approved training program. This extensive training includes participation in at least 500 Mohs Micrographic Surgery cases under the supervision of an experienced, ACMS-approved Mohs surgeon.

For more information about skin cancer and Mohs Micrographic Surgery please go to the official ACMS patient website:

[www.SkinCancerMohsSurgery.org](http://www.SkinCancerMohsSurgery.org)





### **Meanwhile...**

While you're seeking treatment—and after—remember that the diagnosis of skin cancer does require you to make some changes to protect your skin, but these changes don't have to be drastic. Taking the following precautions can help to reduce the likelihood that additional skin cancers will develop and/or ensure their early detection:

- Protect yourself from the sun;
- Be aware of any new or existing lesions on your skin that appear to be growing or bleed intermittently;
- Talk to your doctor about the characteristics of skin cancer.

If any of these skin changes occur, see your doctor.

**American College of Mohs Surgery**  
**555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53202**

**Phone: 1-800-500-7224**

**Email: [info@mohscollege.org](mailto:info@mohscollege.org)**

**[www.SkinCancerMohsSurgery.org](http://www.SkinCancerMohsSurgery.org)**

**[www.mohscollege.org](http://www.mohscollege.org)**

The American College of Mohs Surgery was established in 1967 by Dr. Frederic E. Mohs, who discovered and developed the Mohs Micrographic Surgery procedure at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.