Dermatology / Mohs Surgeons

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Resources

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734-936-4068
734-647-8616 (fax)

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www.med.umich.edu/derm/patient/skinindex.shtml

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When you have been diagnosed with skin cancer many questions arise. How did this happen? What can I do about it? What is the best treatment for me?

The University of Michigan Mohs Micrographic Surgery team is here to assist you. We offer our support for your concerns and provide you with the best possible care. Our doctors are board certified physicians specializing in the Mohs procedure. We offer a comfortable setting for the out-patient procedures and our courteous staff will provide you with the personal attention and care you need.

We invite you to take advantage of our services and our facility so that you may become cancer free and educated in reducing the risks of developing any additional skin cancers. Please begin your journey to complete recovery today by scheduling your initial appointment with our gracious staff.

Phone (734) 936-4068

What can I expect at my first appointment in the Mohs Unit?

Your first appointment will consist of a preoperative consultation. It is often done in the clinic but in many cases screening can be done over the telephone. This visit is critically important to assess, coordinate, plan and prepare you for surgery. Please understand that Mohs surgery is not performed on the consult day. We will make every effort to minimize trips but want to insure that the surgery is performed in the best way possible.

What is Mohs surgery?

Performed at U-M since 1955, Mohs Micrographic Surgery is an advanced procedure for the treatment of skin cancer that offers the highest potential for cure up to 95 to 99%–even if other forms of treatment have failed. Mohs is most often used to treat two of the most common forms of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. The procedure is a state-of-the-art treatment in which the physician serves as surgeon, pathologist and reconstructive surgeon. It relies on the accuracy of a microscope to trace and ensure removal of skin cancer down to its roots. The procedure allows dermatology physicians, trained in Mohs surgery, to see beyond the visible disease and to precisely identify and remove the entire tumor, leaving healthy tissue unharmed. Mohs surgery is the most exact and precise method of tumor removal, minimizing the chance of re-growth and lessens the potential for scarring or disfigurement by conserving as much normal tissue as possible.

1. We begin with the visible portion of your skin cancer and the roots that extend beneath.
2. The physician will remove the top layer of the surgical site.
3. Each layer of skin is removed, divided into sections and a map is drawn. Each divided section is examined under the microscope for remaining cancer cells.
4. If cancer cells are microscopically visible, the physician will mark the area on the map. The patient will return to the room and surgery will proceed only in the direction of the remaining cancerous cells. All healthy tissue is kept intact.
5. The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Repair of the surgical site will be discussed for best cosmetic results.