
Mohs Surgery with Dr. Robbins

Mohs micrographic surgery is a precise technique that allows us to remove your skin cancer while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible and obtaining the highest cure rate. The procedure is done in stages during the same visit, so you can go home the very same day with peace of mind that your cancer has been completely treated.

Before Your Procedure

- **Plan your visit:** Expect to be at the office for 2–4 hours. Bring a book, headphones, or something to pass the time. Dress comfortably and bring a warm layer or blanket.
- **The night before:** Shower — your bandage will need to stay dry afterward. If there is hair near the area, you may trim or shave 1–2 days before, but do not shave on the day of surgery.
- **Day of surgery:** Come clean — no makeup, moisturizer, sunscreen, or perfume. Eat normally unless instructed otherwise. If surgery is on the nose, eyelid, forehead, temple, or upper cheek, please arrange for a driver.
- **Medications:** Stop blood thinners such as aspirin, Advil, ibuprofen, vitamin E, ginkgo, or garlic supplements (if taken for preventive reasons only, not prescribed) 7–10 days before surgery. Restart 3 days after. Continue all prescription medications as directed.

During the Procedure

- The area will be completely numbed with local anesthetic — you will not be put to sleep.
- Dr. Robbins will remove the visible cancer with a very narrow margin and examine it under the microscope in our on-site lab.
- Each stage takes about an hour to process. If cancer cells remain, only that exact area is re-excised and checked again until margins are clear.
- Once the cancer is fully removed, Dr. Robbins will repair the area to achieve the best cosmetic and functional result.

After Your Surgery

- **Rest:** Be a “couch potato” for 3 days. Avoid bending, heavy lifting, or straining. No vigorous activity for 2 weeks. If a skin graft was performed, take it easy for up to 3 weeks.
- **Bandage care:** Your bandage will stay on for 2–7 days depending on your repair type. Do not get it wet.
- **Swelling & comfort:** Mild swelling and bruising are normal. Apply a bag of frozen peas or ice pack for 15 minutes every hour while awake for the first 3 days. Extra Strength Tylenol can be taken for discomfort.
- **Follow-up:** We will see you back 1–2 weeks after surgery to check healing and remove stitches if needed. Please make sure you are in town and available during this time.

Final Thoughts

Mohs surgery offers the highest cure rate and the smallest possible scar for skin cancer treatment. Our team is here to make your experience as comfortable and successful as possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions before or after your procedure.