



Slow Mohs Surgery Preparation Guide

Scheduling Your Appointment: Slow Mohs is a procedure that is treated over a period of days.

Day 1: Come to the office at your scheduled appointment time. The skin cancer will be removed with a safety margin and then sent rush to an outside pathologist to check the margins. It takes around 24 hours for the pathologist to receive the tissue and check the margins. Plan to be in the office for a total of 45 minutes. You will leave with an open wound with a pressure bandage on top.

Day 2: You will receive a phone call around noon. At that time, you will be told the results. If the margins are positive, additional tissue will need to be taken. If the margins are clear, sutures will be used to repair the site. Regardless, you will be given an appointment time to return the following day.

Day 3: You will return to the office to either have the wound closed with sutures or to have additional tissue removed. This process is repeated until clear margins are achieved.

Please do not schedule your slow Mohs surgery on a date close to a vacation or trip. Please allow for at least 2 weeks between your surgery and trip.

Afterwards:

- After your surgery, you will leave the office with a pressure bandage that will need to remain in place until you are seen 48 hours later. We ask that you refrain from getting the site wet.
- The surgery site will not have sutures until we know the cancer has been fully removed. With that in mind, it is imperative that you minimize activities as much as possible.
- It is up to your discretion whether you would like to return to work following the surgery. Each person's pain tolerance is different, however many patients report minimal pain. If you need to reduce pain, a dose of extra strength Tylenol should suffice.
- Swelling may occur in areas around the eyes, upper nose, upper cheeks and lower forehead. Swelling tends to follow gravity and travel down the face and eventually dissipate through the neck. This is a normal reaction.

Success: Slow Mohs surgery provides patients with the highest cure rate while preserving as much normal tissue as possible. By preserving as much normal tissue as possible, a smaller defect (wound) is created, resulting in a smaller scar. Reported recurrence after slow Mohs is less than 1%.

Please review the important information listed on the back of this page prior to your scheduled slow Mohs surgical appointment with Dr. Cooper on _____ in our _____ office.

If after reading this guide, you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at the numbers listed below. Our staff is ready to assist you.

Activity Restrictions: Directly following your slow Mohs surgery, you will be advised to avoid heavy lifting, rigorous exercise and excessive bending. These activities should be avoided until your sutures are removed, or until Dr. Cooper instructs you otherwise. Not following these activity restrictions hinders the healing process and can potentially lead to complications.

Scars: Every surgical procedure, regardless of the surgeon, produces some scarring. Every effort will be made to minimize and diminish scarring, but it may still be visible. The extent of scarring and appearance depends on several factors including:

- The location of the cancer
- The size and depth of the cancer
- The method of closure
- How well you heal

Your surgery site may first appear red, lumpy or bumpy. This is normal. As time progresses, the redness will fade and the scar will flatten.

Expectations:

- The defect (wound) created by the removal of your skin cancer may be larger than initially anticipated. The ability to track the extent of the tumor is an important advantage of the slow Mohs procedure.
- The closure method of your wound will be determined after the skin cancer has been fully removed. Each patient is unique and each treatment is individualized to achieve the best possible result.
- You may experience a sensation of tightness or tingling at the surgery site. This sensation will fade with time. Removing skin cancer frequently involves cutting into sensory nerves. It can take a couple of months for these nerves to repair and the sensation to resolve. This is normal.
- There is a small (less than 1%) chance that your wound may become infected. Signs of infection include: increasing pain, spreading redness, warmth around the surgical site, red streaks, drainage of pus, and fever. *If any of these symptoms occur, contact our office as soon as possible.*
- You will be able to drive yourself as the procedure is performed under local anesthesia. However, you are more than welcome to have a family member or friend accompany you.
- Please take all medications as you normally would. We discourage stopping any prescribed medications.
- Please eat breakfast before you come.