

YOUR DAY OF MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

The day of your surgery is a series of coordinated tasks between you, Dr. Ke, and the laboratory, resulting in successful removal of the skin cancer and reconstruction. Below is a brief synopsis of the day's events:

1. Dr. Ke and staff will review your medical history, allergies, medications, examine the tumor, and discuss the biopsy results with you and what outcome to expect.
2. The site will be cleaned with alcohol, marked, measured and photographed.
3. Local anesthesia will be used to numb the site much like the original biopsy.
4. Dr. Ke will obtain the skin sample along with a margin of healthy looking skin (this is the Mohs layer or "stage") which will be taken to the laboratory.
5. Next, you may hear a buzzing sound and the smell of singed hair which is the cautery we use to stop the bleeding. A compressive bandage will be placed.
6. You will be escorted back to the waiting room or may rest in the exam room if available.
7. Meanwhile, the Mohs layer is imbedded and processed in a certain orientation to allow Dr. Ke to examine 100% of the margin. This is the most time consuming part of the process. On average, this takes 45 minutes to 1 hour.
8. Once the tissue is examined by Dr. Ke, you will be informed if another deeper/wider layer must be taken or if the cancer has been completely removed. The average case requires 2-3 layers. As the number of layers is determined by the location and growth of the cancer, be prepared to spend at least 3-4 hours with us.
9. Once the cancer is completely removed, Dr. Ke will discuss the repair options with you. Most of the time, sutures (stitches) are required, but sometimes the best course of action may be to let the area heal by itself (granulation), to delay the repair several days or weeks, or even to coordinate with a plastic or oculoplastic surgeon.
10. You will leave the office with post-operative instructions and any prescriptions you may need. A follow-up appointment in 1-2 weeks is usually scheduled as well.