



APEX SKIN[®]
Dermatology | Aesthetics

Mohs Surgery

Mohs Micrographic Surgery

216.243.MOHS (6647) | apexskin.com

What is Mohs surgery?

Mohs is a precise, same-day procedure used to treat skin cancer. A small layer of skin is taken to the in-house lab for processing. The tissue is oriented using hash marks to identify the exact location of tumor cells, ensuring complete and accurate removal of skin cancer while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible. Mohs promotes smaller wounds, better cosmetic outcomes and complete removal in one quick visit.

Who performs Mohs surgery?

Mohs surgery is performed by a skilled team of staff including a dermatologic surgeon, highly trained surgical assistants and expert lab technicians. Your Mohs team works together to ensure you leave your visit feeling comfortable and confident after your skin cancer treatment.

Why should I have my skin cancer treated by a Mohs surgeon?

Unlike plastic surgeons, a fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon has additional training in skin cancer surgery and pathology, in addition to facial and complex reconstructive surgery, allowing you to feel confident knowing that your skin cancer is being precisely cured with the best cosmetic outcome in mind. Apex Skin has a team of four highly skilled Mohs surgeons across Northeast Ohio to provide you the best treatment options with convenient locations and availability.

What types of skin cancer are treated with Mohs surgery?

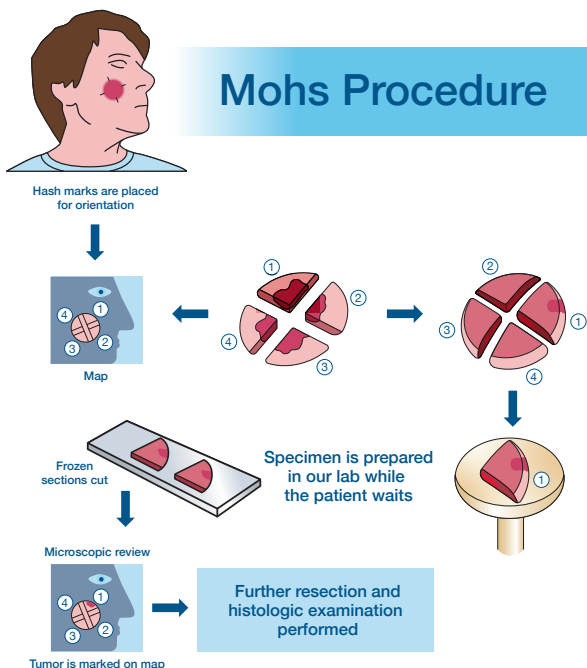
Mohs surgery treats the most common types of non-melanoma skin cancers: Basal Cell Carcinomas and Squamous Cell Carcinomas. Other more rare tumors and malignancies can be treated with Mohs surgery as well. The general dermatologists at Apex work closely with the Mohs surgeons and will discuss with you in detail if Mohs is recommended for your individual diagnosis.

How long does Mohs surgery take?

Generally, Mohs can take up to 1.5 to 3.5 hours. On average, it takes 2 to 3 tissue layers to achieve clear margins. During this process, patients typically remain comfortable in the exam room while they wait for results. Each tissue layer requires processing, with an estimated turnaround time of 30 to 40 minutes between layers. We recommend patients bring a book or other reading material to help pass the time during these intervals. Your visit may be prolonged if your provider performs a complex repair (sutures).

How is Mohs surgery performed?

Mohs is performed as an outpatient procedure using local anesthetic. One of our skilled dermatologic surgeons will start by gently scraping at the lesion with a special tool to assess tumor depth, which helps determine size and depth of the first layer for examination. The goal is to remove as much visible tumor with the first layer while leaving a margin of healthy tissue behind. Additional stages may be required to remove microscopic tumor cells that may extend beneath the skin.



How should I prepare myself for Mohs surgery?

Generally, there are no restrictions prior to Mohs surgery. We recommend that patients continue all physician-recommended medications, including blood thinners. Patients are encouraged to eat a meal prior to their procedure, as your visit may be several hours long. Please refrain from alcoholic beverages for 1–2 days before and after the procedure to minimize post-op bleeding.

Will I have much pain after the procedure?

Most postoperative discomfort can be managed with over the counter medications like Tylenol (please avoid NSAIDs like Motrin, Aleve, or Advil unless directed on your wound care sheet). Patients usually feel up to resuming normal activities for work and leisure the next day. You will leave our office with a pressure dressing to be left for 1–2 days, along with personalized wound care instructions. Please plan accordingly.

Will I need antibiotics after the surgery?

Mohs is performed with sterile surgical instruments and one time use supplies, so post-op infections are minimal. Antibiotics are prescribed on a case-by-case basis and are usually given prophylactically as a result of more complex surgical repairs to prevent infection if the patient is at risk.

Which patients are candidates for Mohs surgery?

Mohs surgery is an excellent option for sensitive areas of the body like the face or head, hands or feet, genitalia, or areas where a good cosmetic outcome is priority. Particularly large tumors, recurrent tumors, or patients with compromised immune systems are also great candidates for precision removal via Mohs surgery.

Get to Know Mohs



Jorge Garcia-Zuazaga
MD, MBA, FAAD, FACMS

Dr. Garcia currently accepts patients at our Concord location.

Founder of Apex Skin



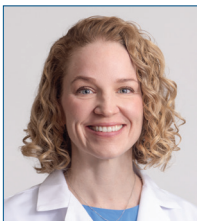
Jennifer Bahner
MD

Dr. Bahner currently accepts patients at our Ashtabula, Hudson, Concord, and Mayfield Heights locations.



Muneeb Ilyas
DO

Dr. Ilyas currently accepts patients at our Concord, Hudson and Lorain locations.



Alison Durham
MD, FAAD

Dr. Durham currently accepts patients at our Canton B location.



Patrick Killian
MD, FAAD, FACMS

Dr. Killian currently accepts patients at our Westlake, Parma and Medina locations.

Same Day Appointments

Call: 216.243.MOHS (6647)

How much does the surgery cost and will my insurance pay?

Mohs surgery is classified as a medical service, and most insurance plans typically cover it under their benefits, subject to any applicable deductibles. Medicare generally covers about 80% of the costs, with your secondary insurance likely covering the remaining amount. For patients with commercial insurance who are not enrolled in Medicare, coverage levels can vary depending on the specific policy. It is recommended to contact your insurance provider prior to scheduling the procedure to confirm coverage and benefits. Copayments are due at the time of the visit.

What are the advantages of Mohs surgery?

Mohs surgery offers the convenience of being performed entirely in an office setting. Patients come in, have their skin cancer treated, and leave the same day with the cancer fully addressed. The process is efficient, patient-friendly, and straightforward.

What is the success rate?

Mohs has a 99% cure rate. In the unusual instance that your skin cancer would reoccur in the same area, you would notice changes at the site of your Mohs around 1–3 years later.

Are there any risks or complications with Mohs surgery?

- Bleeding
- Scarring
- Allergic Reaction
- Numbness or Nerve Damage



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