

## MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY PREOP SHEET

**Mohs surgery is used to treat skin cancers, including Basal Cell Carcinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, and Melanoma. The procedure is performed in our office and does not require general anesthesia (but instead you will be appropriately numbed), and you will be awake during the surgery.**

### 1 WEEK BEFORE SURGERY

- ❖ Smoking interferes with wound healing, so we ask smokers to refrain from any type of tobacco products at least one week before surgery and 2 weeks after surgery.
- ❖ Alcohol can interfere with bleeding, so we ask you stop consuming any alcoholic beverages one week prior to your surgery and one week after.

### DAY OF SURGERY

- ❖ Take a bath or shower, shampooing your hair and soaping the general surgical area to reduce the risk of infection. This can also be done the night before.
- ❖ Avoid makeup if the surgery is on your face.
- ❖ Take all scheduled, prescribed medications and please bring a day's supply of each to your appointment.
- ❖ Eat a normal breakfast.
- ❖ Wear warm, comfortable loose-fitting clothes that allow for easy access to your surgical site.
- ❖ Bring food or snacks and something to pass the time such as a newspaper or book, be prepared to spend at least 3-4 hours through the morning and early afternoon. The procedure length depends on the tumor's size, location and complexity.
- ❖ Bring a friend or relative with you.

### STEPS OF MOHS

**Step 1:** We remove the section of the skin cancer that is visible without a microscope. Next, we remove a layer of surrounding skin tissue and mark it for reference, along with the surgical site.

**Step 2:** We will put a temporary dressing on the wound and show you back to the waiting room.

**Step 3:** The tissue is then processed (put on slides). This can take one hour or longer.

**Step 4:** The surgeon will review the slides under the microscope and identify sections with cancer cells.

Steps 1, 2, 3 are repeated, if necessary, but just for sections with cancer cells. While the exact approach depends on the tumor, it typically takes 1 to 3+ rounds or stages to make sure all the cancer is removed.

**Step 5:** Your surgeon will discuss the best way to repair the surgical site.

- ❖ natural healing for small or shallow wounds
- ❖ stiches are used for most sites
- ❖ flap from adjacent skin or a skin graft from other areas of the body are occasionally used
- ❖ On rarer occasions, your doctor may refer you to a plastic surgeon for reconstruction.