



NEWPORT BEACH
DERMATOLOGY &
PLASTIC SURGERY

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MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Mohs micrographic surgery is an approximately half-day surgical procedure performed in our office. The site to be treated will be injected with a local anesthetic. Dr. McNeill will then remove a level of tissue from the affected area which will be examined in our in-office laboratory. If the tissue shows no residual cancer cells, Dr. McNeill or Dr. Ellstrom will close the wound with sutures (or possibly discuss other options for healing) and you will be free to return home. However, if the specimen indicated the presence of cancer cells, an additional level of tissue will be taken and again analyzed. These steps are reported until all the cancer cells are completely removed.

Each level of tissue is analyzed in our laboratory while you wait. This requires approximately 30 to 45 minutes per level. During this time you will be comfortably seated in our suite waiting room or remain in your exam room, so bring a good book or something to keep you occupied while you are waiting. Please plan on being here between 2-5 hours.

Because you will be injected with a local anesthetic only, there are no dietary restrictions. We suggest that you have breakfast and take your usual medications, except for medications that may thin the blood (see next paragraph). Most patients can drive themselves home after the surgery. If the skin cancer is near the eye, please arrange for someone to drive you.

Please refrain from taking any medication containing aspirin for at least two weeks prior to surgery. Aspirin thins the blood, which increases bleeding during and after the surgical procedure. If you are taking any medications which may thin the blood (including aspirin, ibuprofen or coumadin), please contact the doctor who prescribed the medication to discuss permission to discontinue the blood-thinning medication. If the prescribing doctor wants you to continue taking one of these medications please let our office know. **If you feel anxious about the procedure we can offer you a mild sedative at the time of your procedure, however you will need to arrange for a ride home in this case.**

Plan to be in town for at least one week following your surgical procedure; sutures are usually removed one week after surgery. You will be required to return to our office for surgical post-operative visits and suture removal. You may discuss any additional questions regarding your surgery or any other issue concerning your treatment with Dr. McNeill.