



# WHAT TO EXPECT WITH **MOHS** SKIN CANCER SURGERY

Skin cancer, particularly melanoma, can be frightening. Both benign and malignant tumors can alter and even disfigure your appearance. This can have a serious effect on your self-confidence.

Additionally, if left untreated, skin cancer can become a more serious problem. Even nonmelanoma cancers can cause health concerns as they grow. The longer you wait, the more damage the tumor can do, and the more difficult it will be to remove without a poor cosmetic outcome.

Fortunately, there is a solution. With Mohs surgery, a specialized surgeon can remove your skin cancer, prevent regrowth, and minimize scarring – all in one treatment.

## WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

Mohs micrographic surgery is the most effective treatment for most types of skin cancer. With the Mohs technique, surgeons can precisely identify and remove an entire tumor while leaving the surrounding tissue intact and unharmed. In most cases, the treatment repairs the cancer site the same day the tumor is removed.

Unlike traditional cancer removal procedures, Mohs involves surgically removing the skin cancer layer by layer and examining the tissue under a microscope until only healthy, cancer-free tissue remains. **Because Mohs is such a precise treatment, it has the highest success rate of all skin cancer treatments – up to 99%.**



## Step 1: Examination

Like icebergs, cancer tumors are often much larger underneath the skin than they appear. To remove this hidden layer of cancer, the surgeon will closely examine the tumor, administer the anesthesia, and prepare the patient for surgery.



## Step 2: Removal Of The Top Layer

During this stage, the surgeon removes the visible portion of the tumor using careful surgical techniques. This is where most skin cancer removal treatments stop. However, there may still be cancer buried within the skin. Because of this, a Mohs surgeon will dig deeper.



## Step 3: Removal Of A Deeper Layer

Next, the surgeon removes a deeper layer of skin. They map out the surgical site to help track exactly where each portion of tissue originated. This will help minimize the amount of tissue removed.



## Step 4: Analysis Of Tissue Sample

The surgeon will then analyze the undersurface and edges of each section of tissue, searching for any evidence of cancer.

## Step 5: Mapping The Cancer

If the surgeon finds cancer cells in the deeper skin tissue, they mark the location on their map. They will then remove another deeper layer of skin – but only from the precise spot where the cancer cells originated. This ensures the surgery results in the smallest scar possible.

## Step 6: Finishing The Surgery

The surgery is complete when there is no evidence of cancer. Because only the cancer-containing tissue was removed, the maximum amount of healthy tissue remains intact.

### Mohs Surgery At Proffer Surgical Associates

As a member of the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS), Dr. Liana Proffer at Proffer Surgical Associates is fellowship trained to perform Mohs micrographic surgery. She has participated in more than 12,000 Mohs surgery cases since 2006 and is skilled at accurately removing cancer layer by layer, analyzing tissue samples, and reconstructing affected skin.

If you have any form of skin cancer, schedule a free consultation with Dr. Liana Proffer. She can provide you with the best treatment possible and help you achieve healthy, normal skin. As with all cancer, the earlier you receive treatment, the better the outcome will be.



**Dr. Liana Proffer**



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