



### ABOUT MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY:

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is the most advanced and effective treatment for certain types of skin cancer with a success rate up to 99%. The process involves taking a small specimen of skin, similar to a biopsy, and checking it for cancer while you wait. If cancer is identified at the edges of the specimen, more skin is removed. This process is repeated until the cancer is completely out. The procedure is performed by Mohs surgeons who have completed training in dermatology and Mohs surgery.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

When patients arrive at the office, they are asked a number of medical questions and they are asked to **confirm the cancer site**. The area is then deadened and a thin layer of skin is removed. The tissue is processed and the margins of the tumor are checked. The diagram to the right describes the process. Each layer takes about an hour to process, so **expect to be at the office for at least four to five hours**.

### RECONSTRUCTION - REPAIRING THE WOUND:

After the cancer has been removed, the Mohs surgeon discusses post-surgical options with the patient such as:

- A small, simple wound may be allowed to heal on its own.
- A slightly larger wound may be closed with stitches.
- Larger wounds may require a skin graft or a flap.
- If the tumor is very large, another surgeon with special skills may be called upon to assist with reconstruction.

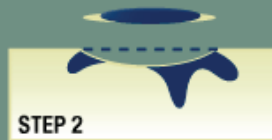
### POST-SURGICAL MANAGEMENT:

Post-surgical check-ups are recommended in order to monitor wound healing, cancer recurrence, or to look for new cancers. Since two of five patients with one skin cancer will develop another within five years, follow up is extremely important for early detection of any new lesions.

## The Mohs Surgery Process



**Step 1:** The roots of a skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.



**Step 2:** The visible portion of the tumor is surgically removed.



**Step 3:** A layer of skin is removed and divided into sections. The ACMS surgeon then color codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of these sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.



**Step 4:** The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.



**Step 5:** If cancer cells are found under the microscope, the ACMS surgeon marks their location onto the "map" and returns to the patient to remove another layer of skin - but only from precisely where the cancer cells remain.

**Step 6:** The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the maximum amount of healthy tissue is kept intact.