

## How To Prepare For Your Mohs Surgery

1. Do not take any aspirin, aspirin-containing products, blood thinners, or Vitamin E for at least 2 weeks prior to your surgery unless instructed to do so by your Primary Care or Cardiology Doctor.
2. If you require antibiotic prophylaxis before surgery, take your first dose of antibiotics 1 hour before coming surgery.
3. Take all of your routine medications, as you normally would **EXCEPT any of your medications that we have told you to stop** (i.e. aspirin or Coumadin).
4. Avoid Alcohol and Tobacco use.
5. Please have someone available to drive you to and from the office.
6. Eat a normal breakfast or lunch on the day of surgery. It is okay to bring a snack with you.
7. Shower and wash your hair before the surgery, avoid covering the area with make-up or lotion.
8. Bring a sweater or jacket in case you get cold. You are welcome to bring your own reading materials or use those available in the office

Dr. Johnathan Chappell was born and reared in Dublin, GA. He earned his biology degree at Morehouse College where he graduated Magna Cum Laude/Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Chappell earned his medical degree at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Having completed his dermatology residency at Howard University Hospital, Dr. Chappell is proficient at treating all skin types and has authored and co-authored several articles on pigmentary disorders of the skin and on the effects of UV light on the integument. He is skilled in medical, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology.

During residency Dr. Chappell developed a keen interest in malignant neoplasms of the skin. Following residency he completed a fellowship in Mohs micrographic surgery at the Northwestern Skin Cancer Institute.

Dr. Chappell is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology. He is also an active member of the National Medical Association.

For information about Mohs Surgery please visit: The American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology [www.mohscollege.org](http://www.mohscollege.org)

**ADS** | ACWORTH  
DERMATOLOGY &  
SKIN CANCER CENTER

## Mohs Micrographic Surgery

**Johnathan L. Chappell, MD**

**Fellowship-Trained Mohs Surgeon**

**Board Certified Dermatologist**

*Specializing in:*

**Mohs Micrographic Surgery for Skin Cancer,  
Surgical, and Cosmetic Dermatology**



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## Why Mohs?

There are several effective methods available for the treatment of skin cancer. The treatment choice is dependent on several factors including size, previous treatment, location, and tumor type. Your physician has referred you for Mohs Micrographic Surgery because your skin cancer falls into the complicated skin cancer category and requires the best possible treatment.

### Complicated Skin Cancers

Mohs is the ideal treatment for cosmetically sensitive areas such as the face, nose, lip, eyelid, ear or difficult to close areas such as the shin.

It is also used for recurrent skin cancers; those that were previously treated then came back.

Mohs is used for large skin cancers or those that were incompletely removed by another procedure.

It is the treatment of choice for many skin cancers that have an aggressive growth pattern on microscopic examination.

Mohs may also be recommended if you have a history of multiple skin cancers in the same area.

The Mohs Micrographic procedure is an effective method for use on poorly demarcated tumors (where the physician is unable to see borders).

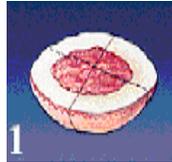
Mohs Surgery is a state-of-the-art skin cancer therapy that:

- 1)Utilizes a microscope to track out the cancer
- 2)Minimizes the chance of tumor regrowth
- 3)Minimizes loss of normal skin
- 4)Preserves normal skin by selective removal
- 5)Preserves function by sparing vital tissues
- 6)Provides the highest cure rate of up to 99%
- 7)Creates the smallest possible scar
- 8)Is performed under local anesthesia
- 9)Is performed in the office while you wait
- 10)Safe for all ages and medical conditions

With Mohs Surgery, you are assured that your tumor will be removed with the highest possible cure rate and smallest possible removal of normal skin. This will allow the area to be stitched up with the smallest possible scar.

### The Procedure In More Detail

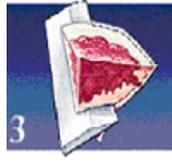
Mohs Surgery is a complex procedure combining surgical excision with immediate microscopic examination of the entire tissue specimen margin by frozen tissue processing techniques right in the office while you wait. Dr. Chappell, who serves as the Mohs surgeon and pathologist, employs a histotechnologist to process, cut, and stain the tissue specimen for proper histologic study. Mohs Surgery consists of a four-step process:



1. Numbing the skin, followed by surgical removal of a thin layer of skin containing the tumor in the shape of a pie. A map of the tumor is created on paper that corresponds with the skin.



2. Dividing the pie-like specimen into slices that are numbered, mapped, color coded, and frozen in a cryostat machine in the office.



3. Frozen tissue slices are then made of the periphery of the tissue that are stained in our Mohs lab by our Histologist.



4. Examination by Dr. Chappell of each tissue section under the microscope as if looking at the entire “crust of the pie” to determine if the entire tumor has been removed. The “filling of the pie” or center of the tissue specimen is not examined because the tumor has already been diagnosed by the prior biopsy and the center of the specimen is not helpful for margin control. If the tumor is removed completely, the skin defect is ready to be repaired. If the area is still positive, Dr. Chappell will take another stage with the smallest amount of tissue possible.

The Mohs Surgery technique allows Dr. Chappell to examine 100% of the surgical margin (or “pie crust”) and, if tumor is still present, pinpoint the exact location of the residual cancer. This enables him to return to the treatment area and selectively remove another layer of skin from the positive area only. This minimizes the amount of normal skin that is removed and creates the smallest possible defect in the skin. Guessing the location of residual tumor in the skin common with regular excision surgery is completely eliminated with Mohs Surgery.

Since many of the skin cancers removed with Mohs Surgery are complicated, multiple stages may be required to clear the tumor. Please be patient since each stage can take up to 60 minutes to process in the Mohs laboratory. If multiple stages are required, the procedure may last for half of a day or more.

The use of Mohs Surgery significantly increases the chance of complete cure and reduces the unnecessary sacrifice of surrounding normal skin. This minimizes the size of the hole, makes it easier to repair the defect, and will result in a smaller scar.

### Skin Reconstruction After Mohs Surgery

Once you have been determined to be “clear” of any skin cancer, Dr. Chappell is committed to obtaining the best and smallest possible cosmetic result from your procedure. The staff will bring you back to the surgical room, and reanesthetize the area. Dr. Chappell will close the wound and you will be given an appointment for suture removal.

Please advise us if you need a note for work.