



Dr. Lark Guss received her bachelor's degree from Yale University, a master's degree in immunology from the University of Oxford, and her medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

She completed her dermatology residency at Johns Hopkins where she served as chief resident. She completed her American College of Mohs Surgery Fellowship in Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery at the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, CA.

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EXPECTATIONS
MOHS SURGERY

ABOUT MOHS SURGERY

Mohs surgery is a specialized form of skin cancer surgery designed to achieve a very high cure rate while leaving behind as much healthy tissue as possible.

On the day of surgery, your skin will be numbed and a thin layer of tissue will be taken around the biopsy site scar and any remaining visible cancer. A bandage will then be placed on your wound and Dr. Guss will take your tissue to the lab in our office.

After the tissue is processed, Dr. Guss will use a microscope to tell you if there are any cancer cells still remaining at the edges. If so, you will be re-numbered and Dr. Guss will take another small piece of tissue where there is still cancer. This process is continued until all of the margins are clear.

Once all of the cancer is removed, you and Dr. Guss will discuss different options for repairing the wound to give you the best cosmetic result possible.



Prepare to spend the entire day with us. It is not possible to know exactly how long your Mohs surgery will take. Though most patients are treated between 3-5 hours, some skin cancers will take all day to completely remove.



Bring something to eat. We do have light snacks at the office, but as the Mohs procedure often goes through lunchtime, you may want to bring extra food or beverages.



Bring something to pass the time. Most of your day during the procedure will be spent waiting. It can be much more pleasant if you bring something to read or an activity to do.

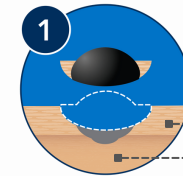


Take all of your normal medications. You do not have to stop any of your medications, including blood thinners, unless you are specifically told to do so before the day of surgery.



Wear comfortable clothing. Sometimes our office rooms can be a bit warm or cold. It can be helpful to bring layers or a blanket.

THE MOHS SURGERY PROCESS

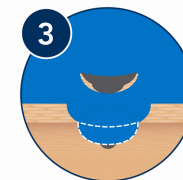


1 The visible tumor and a thin layer of surrounding skin are removed.



2 The tissue is examined under a microscope to see if any cancer cells remain at any of the edges.

The tumor is tracked by looking at the deep and peripheral edges under the microscope every time a stage is taken. This allows the surgeon to remove the entirety of the tumor while leaving as much healthy tissue intact.



3 If any cancer cells remain, additional skin is removed and examined under the microscope.



4 This process continues until no more cancer cells are found at the edges.



5 The wound may be left open to heal or closed with stitches depending on size and location. The surgeon may discuss reconstruction options, should they be required, and then post-operative care.