HOW WILL MY SKIN BE REPAIRED AFTER MOHS SURGERY?

Because the surgical defect (the "hole") created after Mohs Micrographic surgery is smaller than other surgical techniques, the repair required will leave a smaller scar. Dr. Syed has received extensive training in reconstructing skin cancer defects in cosmetically sensitive sites such as the nose, ears, lips and face. Most surgical sites can be repaired in the surgical suite. If the defect is extremely extensive or requires the skill of additional specialists, Dr. Syed may refer you to the appropriate physician after surgery.

WHAT ELSE CAN I EXPECT?

* Mohs surgery is time consuming: it can take 30-45 minutes to process each layer of tissue after removal, and the reconstruction time may take over one hour. Most patients spend 2-4 hours in the office, though some procedures may take longer.
* Prescription medications such as Coumadin (Warfarin), Plavix (clopidogrel), Pradaxa and Xarelto, as well as common over the counter medications such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen and other NSAIDS, and Vitamin E can thin the blood and may cause increased bleeding during and after Mohs Surgery. *Please continue these medications if they were prescribed and/or recommended by your physician*. We will cauterize and bandage your wound site appropriately after surgery to prevent excessive bleeding.
* Take all routine medications before coming to surgery.
* If you require antibiotics before surgery, take one dose the morning of your surgery.
* Eat a normal breakfast before surgery.
* Please have a family member or friend come with you to your surgery.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS...

Our trained and knowledgeable staff is available to answer all of your questions. Please call our office at 410.252.9090 if you would like to speak to Dr. Syed or one of his assistants.

ABOUT DR. SAIF SYED

Board Certifi ed in Dermatology Fellowship

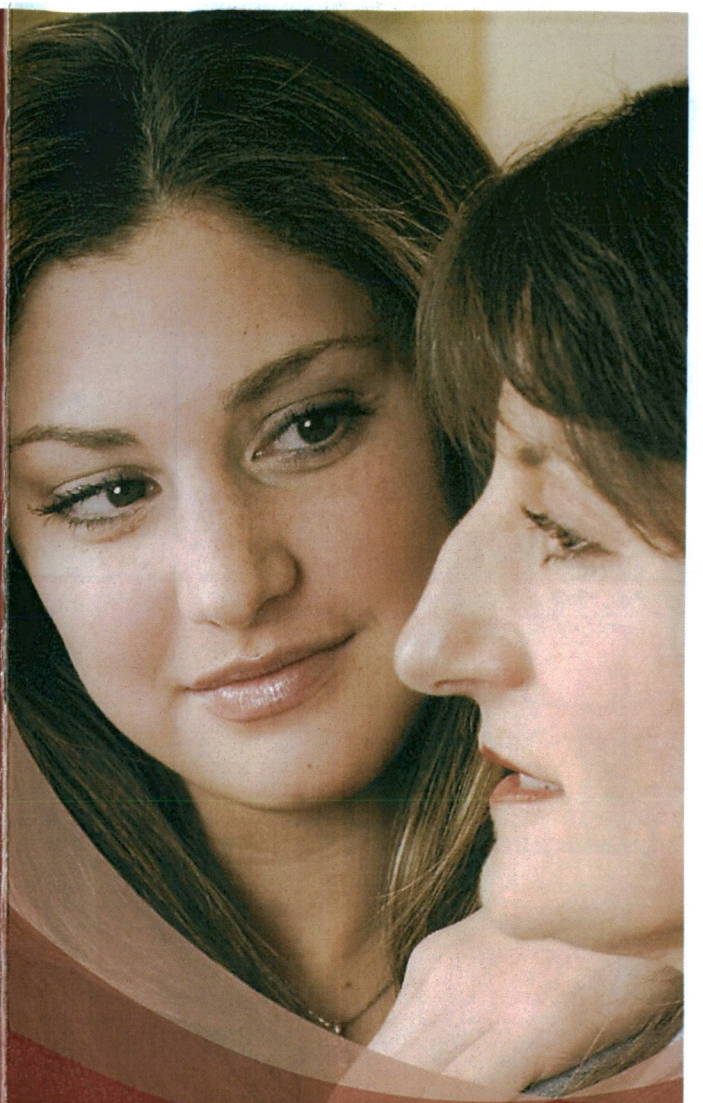
Trained in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Surgery

Dr. Saif Syed was born in Toronto, Canada and grew up in western Canada and Texas before moving to Maryland. He graduated from Randallstown Senior High as Valedictorian and attended Pennsylvania State University for his undergraduate degree. Dr. Syed attended Jeff erson Medical College in Philadelphia, graduating in 1999. He completed an internship in Internal Medicine at MCP-Hahnemann University Hospitals, and his Dermatology residency in the Drexel University Department of Dermatology. Dr. Syed was accepted to a training program in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Surgery at the University of Cincinnati, one of forty training programs in the US and Canada. He has been practicing in Maryland since 2003 and is on volunteer faculty with the University of Maryland Department of Dermatology. Dr. Syed is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) and the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS).

MOHS & SKIN
SURGERY CENTER

Mohs & Skin Surgery Center
1447 York Road, Suite 301
Lutherville, MD 21093

ACMS American College of Mohs Surgery



WHAT IS MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY?

A Tissue-Sparing Technique for Removing Skin Cancers

WHAT IS SKIN CANCER?

Skin cancer usually begins as a slow-growing bump or spot on the skin. Characteristics of skin cancer include scaly or crusted texture, easy bleeding, irregular color or shape, and ongoing change in appearance. There are many types of skin cancer; the most common types are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, followed by melanoma. Any new, changing skin mole or growth should be evaluated by a physician.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT SKIN CANCER?

Many small or simple skin cancers are commonly treated by the following methods:

- Excision: A form of surgery that requires removing the skin cancer with a zone of cancer-free tissue to ensure complete removal.
- Electrodessication and Curettage: A quick and effective way to locally destroy cancer cells with an electric needle and a curved knife called a curette.
- Cryosurgery: In expert hands, this technique can treat some skin cancers by freezing tumor cells with liquid nitrogen.
- Radiation Therapy: This technique must be administered by a radiation oncologist and is often used in addition to surgery

WHAT IF MY SKIN CANCER IS NOT SIMPLE?

Some skin cancers cannot be treated by the above methods without lowering the cure rate or aff ecting the cosmetic outcome. This includes:

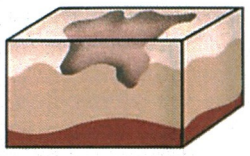
- Tumors in cosmetically sensitive areas of the face
- Cancers that reoccur
- Large skin cancers
- Cancers with aggressive growth
- Incompletely removed cancers
- Edges of the cancer which are difficult to see (poorly demarcated borders)

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a modern technique used to remove skin cancer originally developed by Dr. Frederic Mohs. The advantages of Mohs Surgery are:

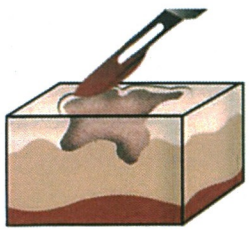
- Cure rate in excess of 99%
- Preserving cancer-free tissue
- Performed under local anesthesia
- Leaves the smallest possible scar

The entire procedure is performed in our outpatient suite.



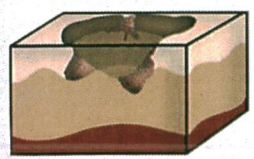
STEP 1

Here is an image of a cross section through a skin cancer. The tumor has roots that are going into deeper layers of the skin.



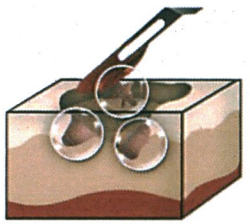
STEP 2

During the first layer of Mohs micrographic surgery, a small layer of skin is incised completely around the tumor with a small margin (1-2 millimetters).



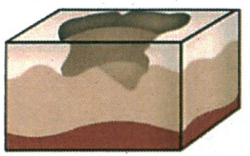
STEP 3

The removed layer of tumor is frozen, stained and viewed under a microscope; the entire base and all of the edges of the layers are evaluated to see if the entire tumor has been removed. A tumor map is created to identify where the remaining tumor is located



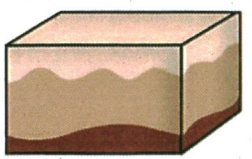
STEP 4

After mapping the tumor layer, additional layers can be removed in a similar way to the first layer if any tumor persists.



STEP 5

Once the entire tumor is removed, the defect is ready for repair.



STEP 6

The Mohs precedure thus allows the smallest amount of skin to be removed while completely removing the tumor.