



Your Day of Mohs Micrographic Surgery

The day of your surgery is a series of coordinated tasks between you, Dr. Greco, and the laboratory resulting in successful removal of the skin cancer and reconstruction. Below is a brief synopsis of the day's events:

- Dr. Greco and staff will review your medical history, allergies, medications, examine the tumor, and discuss the biopsy results with you and what outcome to expect.
- The site will be cleaned with alcohol, marked, measured and photographed.
- Local anesthesia will be used to numb the site much like the original biopsy.
- Dr. Greco will obtain the skin sample along with a margin of healthy-looking skin (this is the Mohs layer or "stage") which will be taken to the laboratory.
- Next, you may hear a buzzing sound and the smell of singed hair which is the cautery we use to stop the bleeding. A compressive bandage will be placed.
- You will remain in the procedure room and enjoy a quiet and restful period along with the option to listen to music, watch TV, a movie or your choice of streaming program.
- Meanwhile, the Mohs layer is imbedded and processed in a certain orientation to allow Dr. Greco to examine 100% of the margin. This is the most time-consuming part of the process. On average, this takes 30 to 60 minutes depending on the size of the specimen.
- Once the tissue is examined by Dr. Greco, you will be informed if another deeper/wider layer must be taken or if the cancer has been completely removed. Cases may require more than 1 layer in order to clear the cancer. As the number of layers is determined by the location and growth of the cancer, be prepared to spend at least 2-4 hours with us.
- Once the cancer is completely removed, Dr. Greco will discuss the repair options with you. Most of the time sutures (stitches) are required, but sometimes the best course of action may be to let the area heal by itself (granulation), to delay the repair several days or weeks, or even to coordinate with a plastic or oculoplastic surgeon.
- You will leave the office with post-operative instructions and any prescriptions you may need. A follow-up appointment in 1-2 weeks is usually scheduled as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, or experience an unexpected reaction, please call us immediately.

We are happy to speak with you any time at **(941) 867-DERM**