

SKIN CANCER CENTRE
1409 North Fant Street, Anderson, SC, 29621
1-800-972-3751 Or 864-231-8599
Richard J. DeAngelis, M.D. Board Certified Skin Cancer Specialist

Mohs Micrographic Surgery

Your Questions Answered

1.) Q: What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

A: A precise and highly specialized surgical removal method that allows the surgeon to examine all of the important tissue margins by utilizing a microscope to visualize all the cancer cells that may be hidden within or under the skin. This proven method of skin cancer removal offers the greatest possible chance of a complete cure, while preserving as much normal skin as possible.

2.) Q: Why do you need Mohs surgery?

A: Your skin cancer may be in a delicate location on your face, ear, or nose where a very precise method of removal is important to ensure complete removal, and to minimize the amount of potential deformity. Another reason to have this surgery is, that possibly your skin cancer has been treated before, and it did not completely respond to the more common methods of removal.

3.) Q: Do you have to go to a hospital to have this procedure performed?

A: NO, this procedure is performed in an outpatient setting in the private office of Dr. DeAngelis, with a CLIA certified lab and trained technicians on the premises. This lab allows us to immediately process the skin cancer tissue that is removed while you wait in a comfortable and private setting.

4.) Q: What does Dr. DeAngelis NEED TO KNOW about you before your surgery?

A: If you have ever been told to take ANTIBIOTICS before having dental work or surgery, and if you take blood thinners such as aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin, headache powders, arthritis medicine, or mega doses of vitamin E.

NOTE: It is important that we know if you take any such medications and WHETHER OR NOT it is safe to stop these medicines for seven days before your surgery. You may need to discuss this with your family physician or heart doctor before safely holding or stopping any such blood thinners.

5.) Q: Where are we located and how can we be reached?

A: You can request a map (if not enclosed) to our office by calling our toll free phone number.

6.) Q: Should you have surgery before an upcoming “out of town” trip?

A: We recommend that you not plan any type of trip out of your hometown for at least one week after your surgery due to the fact that you may require suture removal within four to seven days.

7.) Q: How long should you expect to be at our office?

A: You should expect to be at our office on average between two to five hours depending on whether or not the cancer is removed in one or more layers, and whether or not reconstruction is required. Expect that some of that time will be spent resting comfortably while reading a book or magazine, watching television in a private waiting room, or working on your lap top computer. We have Wi-Fi for your convenience.

8.) Q: Will you leave the office with an open wound from your cancer surgery?

A: We often perform the necessary reconstruction the same day your skin cancer is removed. The reconstruction, if needed, is performed while under local anesthesia. Depending on the location and size of the wound, there are times when reconstruction may not be necessary and the wound is left to heal naturally, in which case, we will teach you how to care for the wound until it heals completely.

9.) Q: What should you do in preparation for surgery?

A: 1.) You SHOULD eat breakfast before coming to our office the day of surgery.
2.) You SHOULD take all daily medications such as high blood pressure medicine, diabetes medicine, or other prescribed medicines with the exception of potential blood thinners (as previously discussed in question #4, on page 1).

10.) Q: What should you do to hopefully prevent the need for Mohs surgery in the future?

A: You should keep your scheduled follow-up appointments because if you have had at least one skin cancer, your risk of developing another one in your lifetime is higher than the average person. Therefore, routine follow-up examinations are critical to ensure early detection of subsequent skin cancers, if they were to develop.