**What To Expect the Day of Your Mohs Surgery**

When you check in for your Mohs appointment, you will be given a consent form to review.

When you are brought back to a procedure room, we will ask you a series of questions about your past medical history, current medications, and allergies to ensure that your surgery is performed as safely as possible.

We will take your blood pressure, and the medical assistant will position you in the procedure chair.

Dr. Dawn will come in to meet you, examine the site, discuss the plan, and answer any questions.

***We will ask you to confirm the exact site to be treated.***

Dr. Dawn will mark the site, and you will need to confirm the location prior to surgery. A family member may assist with confirming the site. If you’re unable to confirm your biopsy site, it may be necessary to cancel your surgery and follow up with your dermatologist for site confirmation.

We will numb the area with lidocaine with epinephrine and clindamycin (an antibiotic to reduce the risk of infection).

Dr. Dawn will remove the visible skin cancer, and the medical assistant will bandage the area.

Processing of your tissue in our Mohs laboratory usually takes 1-2 hours. You will be in the waiting room or in your car while we process your tissue.

***You should plan to be in our office for at least 4-6 hours. Depending on the size or complexity of your skin cancer, some patients are with us the entire day.***

Once we have your results, we will bring you back into the procedure room to tell you if another stage of Mohs surgery is needed or if the wound is ready to be repaired.

If another Mohs stage is needed, we will numb the area again and remove additional tissue where the skin cancer is still present.

If the tumor has been completely removed, we will discuss the plan for sutured closure.

In some cases, the wound may require a skin graft or “flap” repair. With a skin graft, we sometimes need to take skin from another part of your body to cover the wound. If a “flap” is required, Dr. Dawn may need to make multiple incisions to free up enough skin to close the wound.

In some cases, particularly on the legs or scalp, we may recommend allowing the wound to heal on its own. Depending on the wound location and depth, this healing process may take 2 to 4 months.

At the end of your visit, we will discuss how to care for your surgical site over the next few weeks, and we will give you a handout with postoperative instructions.

Most patients will need to return to our office for suture removal in 1-2 weeks. For large or complicated wounds or repairs, we may recommend additional follow up appointments with Dr. Dawn to check the site.