Mohs Micrographic Surgery — Precise Surgery for Skin Cancers

At Loyola Medicine, we offer expert and comprehensive treatment options for skin cancer, including Mohs micrographic surgery. We take an individualized and multidisciplinary approach to provide you with the most current, advanced and successful treatment available.

More than 1 million Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer each year. If you and your family are among them, you may wonder which kind of treatment is best for your skin cancer. While several options are available, Mohs micrographic surgery offers you many advantages.

Why Mohs Surgery?
Skin cancers often look small on the surface but actually can have deep and wide "roots" that are not visible to the eye. If left untreated, skin cancer can progress. Prompt treatment can prevent disfiguring and potentially life-threatening consequences. Mohs surgery is a precise technique that offers:

- Removal of all skin cancer cells at the margins
- Highest potential cure rate – 99 percent for non-melanoma skin cancers
- Minimal risk of recurrence
- Protection of healthy tissue, superior cosmetic results and minimal scarring

The Expertise You Need
Loyola’s team of specialists includes a fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon backed by medical and surgical oncologists, reconstructive surgeons, dermatopathologists and radiologists who are available to care for you if your skin cancer is extensive.

What Happens During Mohs Surgery?
Mohs surgery combines surgical removal of skin cancer with immediate microscopic review of the tissue and is performed in the office under local anesthetic.

After marking and numbing the area, the Mohs surgeon will remove the visible part of the tumor along with a thin layer of skin around and below it. Dyes are used to map and pinpoint the malignant (cancer) cells on a microscope slide.

If cancer cells are found under the microscope, the surgeon marks their location on the map and will remove an additional layer of tissue at this area.

This process is repeated until all of the cancer is gone. Then, the wound will be reconstructed. We will discuss options and their advantages. For most cancers, the Mohs procedure and reconstruction can be performed on the same day.

What Happens After Your Procedure
We will explain wound care instructions and schedule a follow-up visit to remove your stitches and make sure everything is healing properly. We also recommend routine...
skin examinations with your dermatologist every six months or as recommended. Once you have a skin cancer, you are more likely to have a second skin cancer in the future. Getting checked regularly enables early detection and treatment.

**Why Loyola?**
As a leading academic medical center, Loyola brings exceptional expertise to patient care. Many of our specialists have advanced certifications and are professors at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. They work together to provide treatment that is based on the latest advancements, a wealth of experience and all the advantages of academic medicine, including access to clinical trials. Our healthcare providers are here to improve the lives of patients by caring for you in body + soul.

Mohs surgery allows for targeted removal of ONLY the skin cancer and the surrounding normal tissue is spared.

**THE MOHS ADVANTAGE: HIGHEST CURE RATE WHILE MINIMIZING SCARRING**

For an appointment or more information about Mohs micrographic surgery at Loyola, visit [loyolamedicine.org/cancer/mohs-surgery](http://www.loyolamedicine.org) or call 708-485-1295 (scheduling) or 708-485-1271 (nurse triage)