What types of cancer are treated with Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

- Cosmetically sensitive or functionally critical areas surrounding the eyes, nose, lips, fingers, toes or genitals
- Large, aggressive and/or rapidly growing
- Recurrent
- Undefined edges

These are some of the cancers best treated with Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

Here's why…

Common treatment methods rely on the human eye to determine the cancer's extent and are often unsuccessful for the types of cancer listed above. If too little of the cancer is removed, it will recur and require additional surgical procedures. On the other hand, too much tissue can be removed resulting in the loss of healthy tissue and unnecessary scarring.

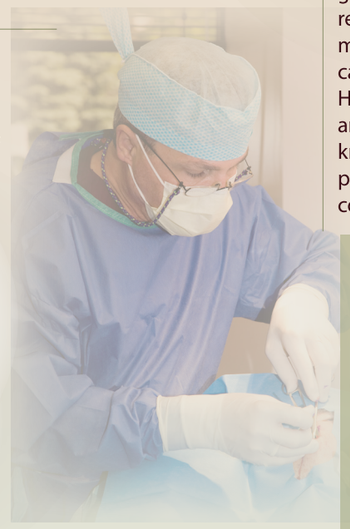
If a cancer treated by one of these common traditional methods recurs, the additional scarring from previous precedures may hide cancer cells, further complicating the decision of how much tissue to remove.

What's next?

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is advanced treatment that leaves healthy tissue intact

This technique relies on the on-site microscopic examination of tissue to ensure complete removal of the cancer

The Skin Cancer Center of S.E. Michigan has its own on-site lab to facilitate the procedure



Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a state-of-the-art treatment for skin cancer in which the physician serves as surgeon, pathologist and frequently reconstructive surgeon.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery relies on the accuracy of a map of the diseased tissue area and the precision of a microscope to trace out and ensure complete removal of the skin cancer – down to its roots. At the Skin Cancer Center of S.E. Michigan, patients benefit from an immediate on-site microscopic examination of the tumor by Dr. Stiff, an ACMS fellowship-trained surgeon. This exam allows him to see beyond what is visible to the eye and precisely identify the cancer and remove only the diseased tissue. (See the inset diagram below.)

Dr. Stiff has extensive training in reconstructive surgery and is generally able to perform the reconstruction soon after microscopic analysis confirms the cancer is completely removed. He and most other ACMS surgeons are also dermatologists. His thorough knowledge of the skin and its healing properties helps produce the best cosmetic results possible.

What can you expect from Mohs Surgery?

Peace of mind

Quick resolution

Rapid recovery

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is usually performed on an outpatient basis in one day, under local anesthesia. The healing process is similar to that of most other surgical procedures. Expect minimal discomfort and the greatest preservation of normal tissue, which will minimize scarring.

Who provides Mohs Surgery?

Dr. Mark A. Stiff is a fellowship-trained surgeon from the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS). Whether you choose Dr. Stiff or another surgeon, when choosing a surgeon for your Mohs Micrographic Surgery, make sure they are ACMS trained. Only the ACMS requires physicians to complete a one- or two-year post-residency fellowship at an ACMS-approved training program. This extensive training includes participation in at least 500 Mohs Micrographic Surgery cases under the close supervision of an experienced, ACMS-approved Mohs surgeon.

While you're seeking treatment...

…and after, remember that you are going to have to make some changes in how you care for and protect your skin. These changes include taking precautions to reduce the development of additional skin cancers and ensure their early detection.

- Protect yourself from the sun
- Be aware of any new or existing lesions on your skin that appear to be growing or that bleed intermittently
- Talk to your doctor about the characteristics of skin cancer

If any of these skin changes occur, see your doctor.

The Mohs Surgery Process

Step 1: The roots of a skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.

Step 2: The visible portion of the tumer is surgically removed.

Step 3: A layer of skin is removed and divided into sections. Dr. Stiff then color codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of these sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.

Step 4: The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.

Step 5: If cancer cells are found under the microscope, Dr. Stiff will mark their location onto the "map" and return to the patient to remove another layer of skin – but only from precisely where the cancer cells remain.

Step 6: The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the maximum amount of healthy tissue is left intact.

Know the facts!

All skin cancer treatments are not equal. Some of the most commonly used treatments preferred by many physicians include scraping, burning, freezing, radiation and routine excisions. These remedies may be required for many cancers, however you should understand the advantages Mohs Micrographic Surgery gives you as a patient. This process will remove all of the cancer, minimize the risk of recurrence and leave the least amount of scarring possible.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a highly advanced technique for treating skin cancer and is best performed by a trained and experienced surgeon. Look for a member of the American College of Mohs Surgery to ensure your physician has this critical experience.

When considering your options for treatment or to understand why skin cancer has recurred, it's important to recognize that a skin cancer that is visible to you, or to your physician may be only a small portion of the cancer.

You should understand that:

- Not all cancer cells are apparent to the naked eye.
- Many "invisible" cells may form roots or "fingers" of diseased tissue that can extend beyond the boundaries of a visible cancer.
- If all the cancer cells are not completely removed, the cancer will regrow, making it necessary to remove it again.

What do you do now?

You are certainly very concerned and wondering what you can do about your diagnosis, how it happened and whether you are in serious danger. Know that you are not alone. Each year, more than 1.2 million people in the United States are diagnosed with skin cancer.

First, please do not delay in seeking treatment. If left untreated, skin cancer can continue to progress and be potentially life threatening and disfiguring.

We at the Skin Cancer Center of S.E. Michigan are here to give you the expert compassionate care you need to realize a cure. Dr. Mark A. Stiff is a fellowship-trained physician by Dr. Frederic E. Mohs, the creator of this successful and revolutionary skin cancer treatment. Dr. Stiff is also a Fellow of the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS). Only ACMS members have the necessary experience and expertise to produce optimal outcomes in skin cancer treatment using Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery offers the highest cure rate potential – 99% – for skin cancer

By removing the least amount of tissue, Mohs also offers superior cosmetic results. Dr. Stiff is very skilled in "reconstruction," which means that he frequently can properly and precisely repair the skin and underlying tissue to minimize or eliminate any scarring.

The entire staff of the Skin Cancer Center of S.E. Michigan is dedicated to returning your skin to its ideal healthy state. When you come to us for treatment, we treat you as we would a member of our own family.

Your care is our primary concern.

Dr. Mark A. Stiff

is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed his internship and residency training in General Surgery at Akron General Medical Center in the Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine. Following his residency in Dermatology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr. Stiff's exemplary work earned him a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology at the University of Wisconsin under the tutelage of the esteemed Dr. Frederic E. Mohs.

Dr. Stiff's practice consists exclusively of Mohs and dermatologic surgery. Mohs surgery uses a blend of highly specialized outpatient surgical and laboratory skills to treat cancers of the skin – especially difficult and recurring cancers. The technique consistently offers the highest cure rate, while leaving the maximum amount of healthy tissue intact, which is critical for cosmetic and reconstructive considerations. As a Mohs surgeon, Dr. Stiff is also adept at reconstructing many of his operative wounds.

Dr. Mark A. Stiff is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Wayne State Department of Dermatology and has been in private practice serving southeast Michigan since 1993. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Mohs Surgery and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery, and has spoken and been published nationally. Dr. Stiff is also on staff at most major Detroit Medical Center (DMC) hospitals, including Harper and Huron Valley.

We're conveniently located on W. 12 Mile Rd., just east of Northwestern Hwy.

Skin Cancer Center
OF S.E. MICHIGAN, P.C.
Compassion… Care… Cures

www.MohsSurgeryMichigan.com
26400 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 180 • Southfield, MI 48034

(248) 355-5047

MOHS
Micrographic Surgery

You've been diagnosed with skin cancer…

Where do you turn?

Skin Cancer Center
OF S.E. MICHIGAN, P.C.
Compassion… Care… Cures

(248) 355-5047