

other information

anticoagulant medication

Please inform our doctors if you take any anticoagulant medication such as Aspirin, Plavix or Warfarin. We require patients taking warfarin to have an INR blood test 2 - 3 days prior to surgery. Please contact the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc on (03) 9623 9400 with the results prior to surgery.

parking

There is metered parking available in the streets close by, in addition to public parking off Pelham and Rathdowne Streets.

accommodation

If you are travelling a long distance, it is advisable to find accommodation and stay the night of your surgery. A number of accommodation options are close to the Foundation. Please contact us for a list.



support the foundation

Our Foundation relies on the support of others to ensure we can continue with our commitment of providing world class care, education and research for skin disorders. See below for the range of ways on how you can support us.

fundraise

Start fundraising with friends and family. Sign up for an existing event in your region or create your own event with our online Foundation fundraising page. Simply visit our website and refer to the 'fundraise now' button on the home page for your convenience.

Alternatively don't hesitate to contact us:
t: 03 9623 9400 e: fundraise@skincancer.asn.au

donation

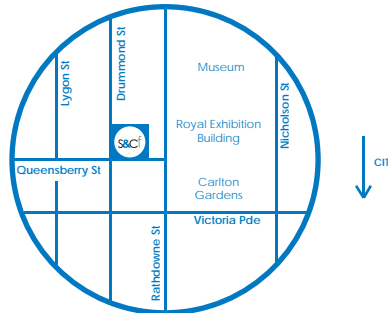
Donate to our cause today. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Simply visit our website and refer to the 'donate now' button on the home page for your convenience.

Alternatively don't hesitate to contact us:
t: 03 9623 9400 e: donate@skincancer.asn.au

bequest

If you wish to make a bequest a member of our Foundation is available to talk with you regarding your preferred option in addition to discussing our recognition of support program.

t: 03 9623 9400 e: bequest@skincancer.asn.au



Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc

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DISCLAIMER: Content in this brochure is provided for general information only. It is not intended as medical advice, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for consultations with qualified health professionals who can determine your individual medical needs.



mohs micrographic surgery clinic

the skin & cancer foundation inc

The Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc is Australia's leading specialist dermatology centre. It is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in the treatment, education and research of skin disorders.

Established in 1987, the Foundation offers patients peace of mind knowing that their skin is in expert hands. The Foundation provides the best in dermatology industry standards, and professional advice.

mohs micrographic surgery

Mohs surgery is micrographically controlled, therefore provides precise removal of cancerous tissue and while healthy tissue is spared. It is particularly advantageous in areas such as the eyelids, nose and lips.

during surgery

Mohs surgery is performed under local anesthetic. The visible tumour, is surgically removed in the first stage. A dressing is then applied and the patient waits comfortably in the recovery room chairs while the slides are being processed.

The removed tissue is carefully divided into pieces that will sit on a microscope slide. The edges are then marked with specially coloured dyes and a map of the tissue removed is made and the tissue is frozen by the technician. Thin slices can then be made from the frozen tissue and examined microscopically by the doctor who is now able to visualise any residual cancer. If cancer cells remain, another stage of surgery is carried out. The procedure is repeated until no cancer cells remain. This process preserves as much normal, healthy, surrounding skin as possible.

mohs surgery team

On the day of the surgery a number of people will be involved in your treatment. These will include 1 principal Mohs surgeon, 1 dermatology registrar, a plastic surgeon if required (all of whom may be involved in performing the surgery at varying times during the day), several nurses and pathology technicians.

duration of surgery

Mohs surgery is performed under local anaesthetic, while the patient remains awake.

We ask that patients attending Mohs surgery have no other commitments on the day of surgery. There is no way of telling how many excisions you will need to remove your skin cancer until they are viewed under the microscope. May require a number of excisions to clear the area.

The approximate time for each stage is 2 hours. Usually 20 - 30 minutes of this time is spent in the procedure room. The remaining time is required for preparation and interpretation of slides.

what happens after the cancer is gone

After Mohs surgery you will be left with a surgical wound. The wound will be repaired in one of several ways including direct closure, flaps, grafts or granulation. This will be decided on the day, and explained in detail to you. The repair option chosen aims to give the best possible cosmetic and functional result.

Repair with stitches is usually performed. This involves some adjustment and stretching of the wound and stitching the edges together and provides optimal results in most cases.

With a flap a larger wound needs to be created temporarily to allow movement of skin. This leads to more stitches than you may have anticipated. The final cosmetic outcome is usually very good. With grafts a second wound is created to obtain extra skin (donor site). This is usually taken from a "non cosmetic" site to minimise scarring and can include sites such as in front of or behind the ear, the collarbone area, the inner or outer upper arm or the thigh.

Healing by granulation involves letting the wound heal by itself. There are certain areas of the body where it would heal naturally as well as any other surgical repair. If the wound is allowed to granulate, it usually heals in six to eight weeks and requires daily dressing changes.

cure rate

Using the Mohs technique, the rate success is very high, reportedly 94 - 99%, even where other treatments have failed. A 100% cure however can not be guaranteed.

risks and complications

As with all surgeries complications may arise. A list of these complications include:

- Bleeding
- Bruising
- Swelling
- Incomplete removal of cancer
- Pain afterwards
- Infection
- Scarring
- Numbness

Associated risks and complications will be discussed. Please don't hesitate to speak to your doctor about any concerns or questions you may have.

follow up

Patients are required to return one week post surgery for removal of suture (stitches) and wound review. A follow up appointment with a doctor will also be booked. After the wound has healed patients are referred to their regular doctor for ongoing surveillance.

preparation for surgery

The best preparation for your surgery is a sound nights rest, followed by a normal breakfast. If you are taking any regular medications, you should take them as normal unless advised to withhold them.

You should dress comfortably as it may be a long day. We have a television for your entertainment, but it is wise to bring a book, i-pod, i-pad, knitting or similar to occupy your time. You will require someone to drive you home after surgery. Due to limited space we request that you only bring one companion with you on the day of surgery. Avoid wearing any valuables or wearing unnecessary jewellery.

what to expect after surgery

A dressing will be applied after surgery to help reduce bleeding. You will be given verbal and written wound care instructions and information on what to do in the event of any complications.