

## What is Mohs surgery?

Mohs surgery is an advanced treatment and the gold standard for skin cancer that is:

- Located in sensitive, visible areas, such as the face, ears, or hands.
- A subtype that is likely to return, is fast growing, or has high risk of spreading.

During Mohs surgery, the cancerous skin is removed with the smallest possible "margins," preserving as much healthy skin as possible. The cancerous skin is immediately examined under the microscope by the Mohs surgeon, who has "mapped" out the area and is able to precisely identify any residual skin cancer.

## Why choose Mohs surgery?

- ✓ **High cure rate** – up to 99% for certain skin cancers.
- ✓ **Minimally invasive** – targets only cancerous tissue, preserving healthy skin.
- ✓ **Same-day results** – each tissue layer is examined during the visit, ensuring complete cancer removal before you leave the clinic.

**Mercy Medical Group**  
7115 Greenback Lane, Floor 1  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621  
(916) 844-1591

[dignityhealth.org/mohs-surgery](https://dignityhealth.org/mohs-surgery)

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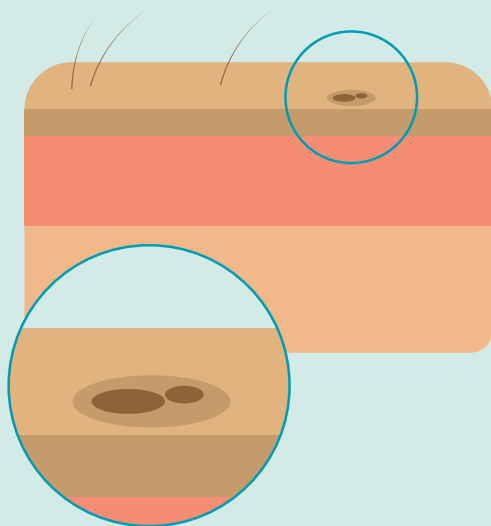
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## Understanding Mohs Surgery

Skin cancer treatment with same-day results.

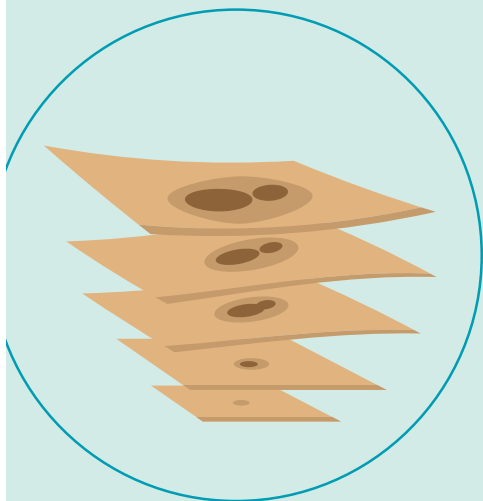


## How does Mohs surgery work?



Mohs surgery is a specialized technique that removes skin cancer in stages, preventing unnecessary removal of any healthy skin.

This approach ensures high cure rates and minimal scarring.



## What can I expect during the procedure?

### Comfort and pain management

Local anesthesia is used to numb the area, ensuring the procedure is pain-free while you remain awake.

### Step-by-step removal

The process begins with Dr. Chen removing visible cancer, which typically takes about five minutes.

### Tissue examination

The removed tissue is processed in the clinic and analyzed under a microscope by Dr. Chen to check for any remaining cancer cells. Each analysis takes about one hour.

### Targeted removal

If cancer cells remain, only the affected area is removed. This process is repeated until all cancer is eliminated.

### Same-day reconstruction

Once all cancerous cells are removed, Dr. Chen performs reconstructive surgery to minimize scarring and optimize healing. This step can take 30 minutes to one hour, depending on the complexity.

## How long does it take?

Because each piece of tissue is analyzed during the surgery, the process can take several hours. You should plan to be at the clinic for at least a full morning or afternoon.

## What is recovery like?

In general, you will likely have stitches for one week, during which you will need to perform basic wound care. However, you should expect to "take it easy" and minimize activity and exercise for two weeks after surgery to allow your skin to heal and to prevent complications such as bleeding, infection, or poor scar healing.

## Meet Dr. Alessandra Chen



Dr. Alessandra Chen is a fellowship-trained and board-certified Mohs micrographic surgeon specializing in skin cancer surgery and facial reconstructive procedures. With advanced training in Mohs surgery, she provides expert care to ensure the complete removal of skin cancer while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible.

Scan to learn more about Dr. Chen.

