



History of Mohs Surgery

Mohs Micrographic surgery is one of the most effective techniques used to remove skin cancer today. The Mohs technique was developed in the 1930's by Dr. Frederic Mohs, a general surgeon at the University of Wisconsin. This important development occurred while he was studying various injectable irritants to evaluate the live inflammatory response in transplantable rat cancers and normal tissue. Dr. Mohs noted that injected 20% zinc chloride solution inadvertently caused tissue necrosis in tumor and normal tissue. This discovery was the basis for a method in which cancers could be extracted under complete microscopic control. This fixed tissue technique was utilized for over a decade, with Dr. Mohs its pioneer developer, greatest advocate, and lone practitioner.

Long-term follow-up of Dr. Mohs' patients was carefully documented and further revealed the effectiveness of this treatment. In 1953, a revolutionary breakthrough occurred while filming the removal of an eyelid carcinoma for educational purposes. An involved margin in the first level caused a delay in filming, a development which necessitated the utilization of horizontal frozen sections for the second and third levels. In 1969 Dr. Mohs reported the use of the fresh tissue technique for sixty-six basal cell carcinomas and for squamous cell carcinomas of the eyelid, with five-year cure rates of 100%. The medical community was convinced of the validity of the fresh tissue technique after reviewing the data.

Today all U.S. dermatology Residency training programs are required to provide exposure to the Mohs technique, and in many cases second- and third-year Residents receive extensive hands-on experience in the procedure. Dr. Roger Moore of DermacenterMD is a skin cancer expert and performs Mohs surgery every week. You can rest assured that you are in good hands and will receive the most advanced treatment for your skin cancer.

Source:

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DermacenterMD

Dr. Roger Moore

111 N. Nappanee Street Elkhart, IN 46514 • Phone: 574-522-0265 • www.dermacentermd.com