

You have been scheduled for Mohs surgery with Dr. Benjamin Solky at Adult & Pediatric Dermatology, pc, Center for Mohs Surgery. We have two locations. The first is at 133 Littleton Road, Suite 205, Westford, MA 01886 and the second is at 340 Maple Street, Suite 201 Marlborough, MA 01752.

- Please plan on arriving 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment.
- Please bring an up-to-date list of all medications you are taking including over the counter medications and vitamins.
- If your insurance requires referrals please call your Primary Care Physician with the date of your surgery and request a referral to Benjamin Solky, MD.

DIRECTIONS FOR BOTH OFFICES ARE LOCATED ON THIS WEBSITE

About Dr. Benjamin Solky, MD and Mohs Surgery

Dr. Benjamin Solky is a Board Certified dermatologist trained at the Harvard Medical School and fellowship-trained in Mohs Micrographic Surgery by the Mayo Clinic. He is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology and American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology. Dr. Solky has taught skin cancer surgery and reconstruction on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School and has preformed thousands of surgical procedures.

Mohs Surgery is a method of removing skin cancer that has the highest cure rate (98-99%) and saves the most normal healthy skin. Normally, skin cancer is removed with a “safety margin” to remove the roots that extend beyond what can be seen with the naked eye. By utilizing the Mohs technique, a minimal margin of extra skin can be taken because 100% of the tissues edge is checked in a more complete way. The tissue is processed and checked right here in the office while you wait (approximately 15-30 minutes). In the event that the roots of your skin cancer come to the edge of the tissue taken, Dr. Solky will return to the area where the skin cancer is still present and remove another thin section of skin. The edge of this tissue is then checked for roots of the skin cancer. This is done in small layers to ensure that the least possible amount of tissue is removed.

Once the skin cancer is completely removed, the area is repaired using sutures. Dr. Solky is also trained in the repair of the defects or the “holes” left once the entire skin cancer is removed. The decision about the best method of repair is made after the skin cancer is all out. Most commonly, the area is repaired in the office on the day of surgery. The skin may be repaired with a simple row of stitches, a local flap (moving the skin nearby to fit in the hole), or a skin graft (taking a piece of skin from somewhere else as a patch over the area of removed skin). Occasionally, it is deemed best to let the area simply heal by Mother Nature in the same way as the original biopsy. Rarely the skills of another specialist are required and repair is arranged for later that same day or on a day shortly thereafter.

The area will be anesthetized or “numbed” using an injection of lidocaine prior to the procedure. You should not feel any discomfort during the procedure. Re-administration of numbing medicine is needed prior to each stage of removal and also prior to the repair.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to stop Aspirin/Coumadin?

If you take Aspirin/Coumadin and have had a heart attack, blood clot, TIA, or stroke, you should continue your daily treatment. If you are on preventative daily aspirin and have not had these problems, please discontinue aspirin 10 days before surgery.

Can I eat the morning of surgery?

Yes, please go ahead and have a light breakfast. Also, you should bring a snack with you as the appointment may last several hours.

Should I take my daily medications?

Yes. For advice regarding aspirin, please see above.

How long does this procedure take?

Typically this procedure takes between 2-4 hours, but could last longer. The reason is there is no way to know how extensive the microscopic roots of the skin cancer may be. Please refer to the "About Mohs Surgery" section of this packet for further explanation.

What if I have questions?

Dr. Solky's staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact the Mohs Surgery Team Leader:
Leigh Garison @ 978-923-2750

What can I expect after surgery?

You will leave with stitches and a bulky bandage that will be in place for 24-48 hours. You will be a little sore and will likely need some extra strength Tylenol when the numbing medicine wears off and possibly for a day or two after. Advil, Ibuprofen, Motrin, and Aleve can all thin the blood and increase the risk of bleeding and should be avoided for 48 hours after surgery. The area treated will be bruised and swollen for 1-2 weeks.

What follow up will I need?

You will need sutures removed in one week and a follow up skin exam in one of our offices in 6 months.

We recommend everyone have someone drive them to and from their appointment.

Wound Care

For Mohs Surgery or Excision- remove your bandage after 2 days and begin care below**.

If you have Steri-Strips (butterfly bandages) across your wound, do not remove them. They will come off naturally when they are ready (it does not matter when this happens) - wound care (see below**) is done right over the strips.

For a Simple Biopsy- remove your bandage after 1 day and begin care below**.

**Everyday, wash the area in the shower with your usual soap and warm water.

Apply a thin layer of Aquaphor ointment or Vaseline over the area.

Cover the area with an appropriate sized Band-Aid or non stick gauze and tape.

Repeat this daily for one or two weeks as instructed by your physician.

If bleeding occurs through bandage, apply pressure for 20 minutes continuously without “peeking”. This can be repeated once if necessary. If bleeding continues, contact our on- call surgical physician or proceed to the local emergency room or urgent care center.

You DO NOT need an antibiotic ointment.

A small amount of pinkness, bruising or swelling around the area is normal. If the area is not sutured, (left open to heal), everyday there will be a yellowish material that accumulates in the wound and should be gently washed out.

Common signs and symptoms of infection are FIRE-ENGINE RED around the area, PUS, UNUSUAL DISCOMFORT or TEMPERATURE GREATER THAN 100.4F. Please call your physician if any of these occur.

For any discomfort please use extra strength Tylenol only.

No alcoholic beverages on the first night.

Please do the above care for _____ weeks.

To Contact a part of the Mohs team, please call Tuesday through Thursday 978-692-9978 or 978-923-2750. If you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have a problem over the weekend, or after regular business hours, call 978-692-9978 and follow the prompts for reaching our ON CALL MOHS SURGEON. In the event of an emergency, call 911 or proceed to the nearest Emergency Room.