

Information for Patients

Mohs Micrographic Surgery

What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Mohs surgery is a highly specialised surgical technique to remove certain skin tumours. It was first described by a Dr Fredrerick Mohs, a surgeon from the USA who pioneered the technique. It offers the following advantages:

- It has an extremely high cure rate.
- This technique ensures that a minimal amount of normal tissue is sacrificed whilst ensuring the entire tumour is removed. This is of immense importance around the eyes. This also ensures that the reconstructive surgery required to deal with the defect is less extensive.

Why it is necessary to travel to the Salford Royal Hospital (previously named Hope Hospital)?

The surgeons who have received specialist training in Mohs surgery in this region are Consultant Dermatologists based at Salford Royal Hospital. Their role in your management is to remove the tumour. Once this has been done, you will be transferred to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital for the reconstruction.

What will happen at Salford Royal Hospital?

On the day of your appointment you will attend the Mohs surgery unit, in the department of Dermatology, to undergo Mohs Micrographic surgical removal of the skin tumour. This procedure is performed under a local anaesthetic; the tumour removal could take place in stages. The procedure can take anything from 1 hour to most of the morning or afternoon to perform. There is a waiting period between each stage, during which time you will be resting, with a temporary dressing in place.

If your reconstruction is planned for the same day, you must not eat or drink anything including sweets and chewing gum. If you are unsure, please check with your medical or nursing team at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

When you attend Salford Royal Hospital, you might like to:

- Bring something to read.
- Bring a friend (but not the whole family).
- Bring a snack, if you are allowed to eat or drink.

Once the procedure has been completed, you will be transferred to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. A taxi is provided and paid for; however, you can make your own way to the hospital if you wish, but you should not drive yourself.

What will happen when I arrive at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital?

You will be seen by a member of the Oculoplastic surgical team. The wound will be examined, to enable the surgeon to plan the reconstruction required. This will be discussed with you. The surgery might take place on the same day or the following day, if it is the following day you will be able to go home and return the next day. This will be performed under local anaesthetic (usually with sedation) in the operating theatre. Occasionally, if the defect is quite large, this surgery will be performed under general anaesthetic. This will be discussed with you. The surgery is often performed on a day case basis, but an inpatient stay could be required.

What will happen following the surgery at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital?

A pressure dressing is placed over the operated eye (which might include a bandage around your head) which will be in place for up to 1 week. Please keep this dry. Arrangements will be made for you to attend the outpatient clinic at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital approximately one week later. If you have any problems with the dressing please contact the nursing team on the telephone numbers below.

Take precautions in the sun.

Please remember to protect yourself from sunlight. It is advisable that you use total sun block on all exposed areas in the future. When spending time outdoors it is also advisable to wear total sun block even if the sun is not shining. You are advised to wear a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses when in the sunshine.

If you require clarification of anything relating to the Mohs Micrographic surgical removal of your skin lesion, please contact:

The Dermatology Centre
Salford Royal Hospital
Stott Lane
Salford
M6 8HD
Tel: (0161) 787 5871/1010
Monday – Friday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

If you are worried or wish to ask any questions about this information, please contact the Oculoplastic specialist nurse on (0161) 276 5608.

To speak to Ward 55 staff please contact the main hospital switchboard on: (0161) 276 1234, available 24 hours a day.