# Mohs Surgery

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## Financial Disclosure

I have no relevant financial disclosures related to this presentation.



# Mohs Surgery

- I. Review of Skin Cancer
- II. Indications for Mohs Surgery
- III. Mohs Micrographic Surgery Technique
- IV.Reconstruction
- V. Other Procedures & Pharmaceutical Agents
- VI.Mohs and Melanoma Treatment





### Skin Cancer Incidence: Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC)

- Most common cancer in the United States.
- One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.
- 9,500 people in the US are diagnosed every day.
- Nonmelanoma skin cancer affects more than 3 million Americans annually.
- Overall incidence of BCC increased by 145% between 1976-1984 and 2000-2010 and the overall incidence of SCC increased by 263% over that same period.



#### Skin Cancer Incidence: Melanoma

- <2% of skin cancer cases but causes the majority of skin cancer deaths.
- More than 1 million Americans have melanoma.
- Approximately 200,000 cases diagnosed annually.
  - o 50% in situ and 50% invasive
  - Invasive melanoma was the 5th most commonly diagnosed cancer in 2022 for men and women.



#### Skin Cancer Incidence: Melanoma

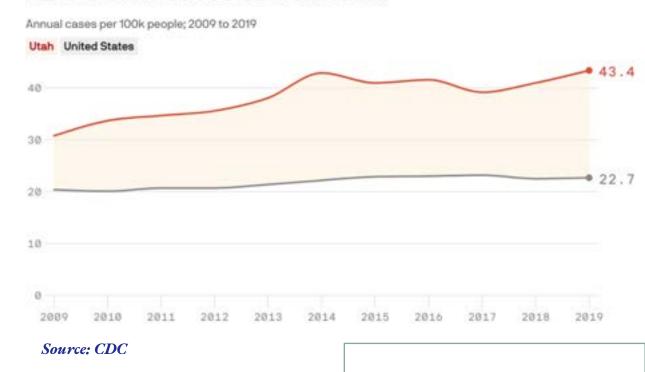
- Melanoma rates in the US have been rising rapidly over the past 30 years.
  - O Sun exposure habits, indoor tanning, Ozone layer depletion, aging population
- Patients with darker skin tones are often diagnosed later and tend to develop melanoma in areas that are not commonly exposed to the sun (i.e. palms, soles, groin, nails and inside of the mouth).
- 1 in 27 men will be diagnosed with melanoma.
- 1 in 40 women will be diagnosed with melanoma.



#### **Utah & Skin Cancer**

- Highest rate of melanoma in the continental US.
- 38.4 per 100,000 Utahns were diagnosed with melanoma in 2020
  - Orop from **43.6 in 2019** likely due to the COVID19 pandemic.
- Rate nearly doubles the national rate of 20 cases per 100,000.
- Highest rate for 12 of the last 15 years and ranked among the top three states for melanoma since 2005.

#### Rate of new cases of melanoma



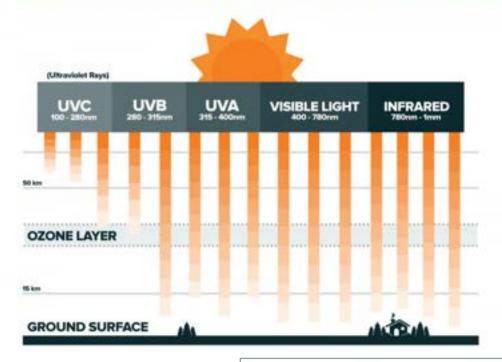


#### **Risk Factors for NMSC**

- UV exposure from sunlight or indoor tanning
  - O UVB (290-320 nm): causes burning
  - UVA (320-400 nm): causes aging.
  - BCC: intermittent, intense short bursts of UV
  - SCC: cumulative, long term exposure and childhood sunburns
- Tanning beds: a single tanning session increases your risk of SCC by 67%, BCC by 29%.
- Ionizing radiation (X-rays): 3 fold increased risk
- Chemicals (arsenic, coal tar)



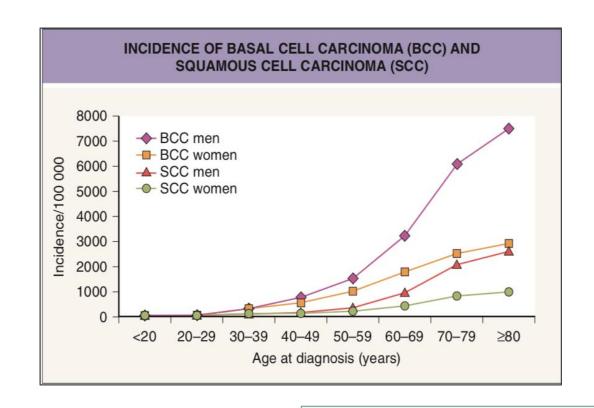
#### **SOLAR UVA, UVB&UVC RAYS**



Source: sunsafetyatwork.ca

#### **Risk Factors for NMSC**

- Fair skin, light eyes, blond or red hair, history of excessive sun exposure, skin cancer or weakened immune system.
- 1 in 4 Caucasians will develop NMSC.
- Males are 2x more likely than females to develop.
- Age: Incidence doubles from 40-70.
- Immunosuppression: organ transplant patient, CLL patients and hematopoietic transplant recipients
- HPV: type 16





### Risk Factor: Organ Transplantation

- Incidence of **SCC** is 100-200 times greater.
- Incidence of **BCC** is 5-10 times greater.
- More likely to develop numerous lesions, suffer local recurrence and metastases.
- HPV DNA is found in approximately 70-90% of transplant associated SCCs.
- 5-8 years: mean interval following transplantation that patient's begin to develop skin cancer
  - o 10-45% of patients develop skin cancer



Source: New England Journal of Medicine



#### Risk Factors for Melanoma

- Regular sunscreen reduces the risk of SCC and melanoma.
- Majority of melanoma cases (60-70%) are due to UV exposure.
  - 5 or more blistering sunburns in adolescence increases the risk of melanoma by 80% and NMSC by 68%.
  - Women younger than 30 are 6x more likely to develop melanoma if they tan indoors.
- People with > 50 moles, atypical moles or large moles.



Tanning by minors is illegal in 19 states including Utah.



#### Non-melanoma skin cancer NMSC

#### **Basal Cell Carcinoma**

- → Most common
- → Found early, highly treatable
- → Low likelihood of metastasis but if left untreated becomes a non-healing wound which will invade other structures (nerves, blood vessels, muscle, bone, eye, etc.)

#### **Squamous Cell Carcinoma**

- → Second most common
- → Slow growing but can metastasize, occurring in 1-5% of patients
- → Responsible for 4-8k deaths annually

#### Melanoma

- → Less common, more aggressive
- → Higher risk of metastasis
- → 5 year survival
  - ◆ Localized: 99.4%
  - Regional: 63.6%
  - Distant: 22.5%



#### **Basal Cell Carcinoma**

- Presents as a pearly papule with arborizing vessels typically on sun exposed areas.
- Pimple-like papule, scar-like area, itchy red patch, non-healing ulcer
- Onset 6th to 7th decade
- Slow, indolent growth with local destruction → low rate of metastasis at 0.1%, spreads first to lymph nodes then bone







Source: American College of Mobs Surgery



### **Basal Cell Carcinoma Subtypes**













Source: VisualDx

#### **Basal Cell Carcinoma**

- **Diagnosis:** Clinical evaluation, Dermoscopy & Biopsy
- Treatment: WLE, Mohs, ED&C, Radiation, Imiquimod, Topical 5-FU and vismodegib
- Standard excision (WLE):
  - 4 mm margin for non-Morpheaform BCC < 2 cm; 98% cure rate
  - o 6 mm margin for infiltrative BCC



#### **Basal Cell Carcinoma**

- Staging: Low Risk, High Risk, Regional or distant metastatic
- High Risk Features → High risk for "recurrence"
  - $\circ$  Area L > 2 cm (trunk and extremities)
  - Area M > 1 cm (cheeks, forehead, scalp, neck and pretibial area)
  - Area H (mask areas of the face/central face, periorbital, pre- and post-auricular, ears, genitalia, hands and feet
  - Poorly defined borders
  - Recurrent
  - Aggressive growth pattern
  - Radiated site
  - Immunosuppression
  - Perineural involvement → MRI should be ordered



#### Squamous Cell Carcinoma

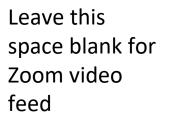
- Erythematous scaly papule, nodule or plaque; commonly on the head, neck and upper extremity (sun damaged skin).
  - Actinic keratosis  $\rightarrow$  SCCis  $\rightarrow$  Invasive SCC
- Risk factors specific to SCC: HPV, radiation, chronic ulcers/scars, hypertrophic LE/LP, arsenic exposure, chronic LS&A, lupus
- Male to female ratio of 3:1







Source: American College of Mohs Surgery





#### **Actinic Keratoses**









Erythematous papules or thin plaques with scale on sun exposed

Leave this areas space blank for Zoom video feed CME Excellence Since 1946

#### Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Relatively low risk for metastasis, ~5%.

- Metastasis to lymph nodes.
- Mortality rate: 0.26/100,000

#### **SCC Subtypes**

- Keratoacanthoma
- SCC from Bowen's disease
- Verrucous carcinoma
- Acantholytic
- Lymphoepithelioma-like
- Desmoplastic
- Adenosquamous
- Cystic



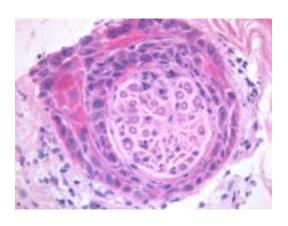






Source: VisualDx





Source: American College of Mobs Surgery

### High Risk Features for SCC

- Increased tumor size > 2 cm
- Location on the ear, genitalia
- Poorly differentiated desmoplastic
- Perineural involvement
- Lymphovascular involvement
- Increased depth of invasion >4 mm
- Immunocompromised status
- Recurrent
- Mucosal sites
- SCC arising in chronic wounds





#### **Treatment of NMSC**

- WLE
- Mohs
- ED&C
- Cryotherapy
- Topical Treatment
- Radiation
- Lasers

Advantages and Disadvantages to each treatment Mohs indicated for high risk sites and tumors Mohs with highest cure rate



# II. Indications for Mohs Micrographic Surgery



### Mohs Micrographic Surgery

- Standard of care when:
  - tumor is in critical location (cosmetic or functional)
  - tumor is recurrent
  - tumor has ill-defined margins
  - tumor is large (> 2 cm) or aggressive



### **Aggressive Histology**

- Infiltrating BCC
- Micronodular BCC
- Morpheaform BCC
- Metatypical BCC
- Poorly differentiated SCC
- Acantholytic SCC
- Perineural invasion



#### **Other Cutaneous Tumors**

- Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP)
- Atypical fibroxanthoma (AFX)
- Sebaceous carcinoma
- Merkel cell carcinoma
- Microcystic adnexal carcinoma
- Verrucous carcinoma
- Angiosarcoma





Source: Mayo Clinic

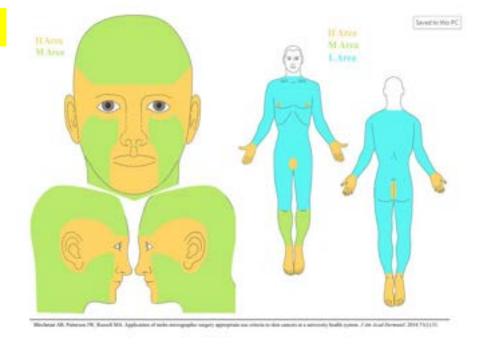


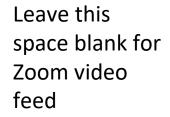
- Based upon Appropriate Use Criteria
- The American Academy of Dermatology, the American College of Mohs Surgery, the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery and the American Society for Mohs Surgery developed appropriate use criteria for 270 scenarios for which Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) is frequently considered based on tumor and patient characteristics.



### Areas of the body

- Area H: "Mask areas" of face (central face, eyelids, eyebrows, nose, lips, chin, ear and periauricular skin/sulci, temple), genitalia (including perineal and perianal), hands, feet, nail units, ankles, and nipples/areola
  - Essentially always indicated for Mohs
- Area M: Cheeks, forehead, scalp, neck, jawline, pretibial surface.
  - Almost always indicated for Mohs
- Area L: Trunk and extremities (excluding pretibial surface)
  - Only indicated for Mohs in certain situations

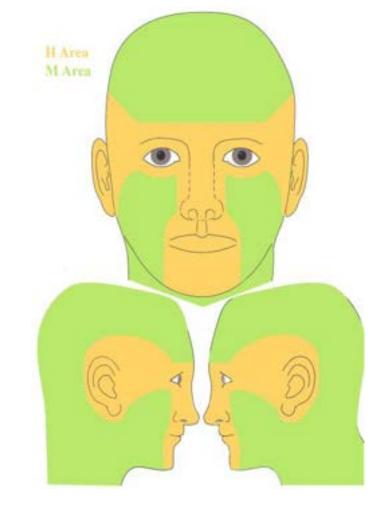


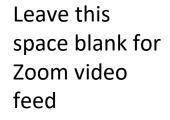




AREA H	Appropriate	Uncertain	Inappropriate
всс	Primary or recurrent: Aggressive Nodular Superficial		
scc	Primary or recurrent: Aggressive Nonaggressive* Verrucous KA-type SCC† In situ SCC/Bowen		Primary or recurrent: AK with focal SCC in situ
LM and MIS	Primary or recurrent: LM MIS		

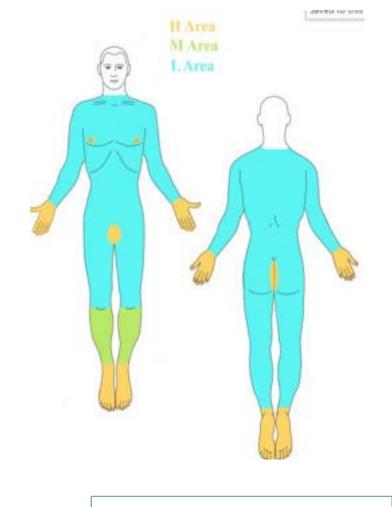
AREA M	Appropriate	Uncertain	Inappropriate
всс	Recurrent or primary: Aggressive Nodular Superficial (IC) Primary: Superficial ≥ 0.6 cm	Primary: Superficial ≤ 0.5 cm	
scc	Primary or recurrent: Aggressive Nonaggressive* KA-type SCC† In situ SCC/Bowen		Primary or recurrent: AK with focal SCC in situ
LM and MIS	Primary or recurrent: LM MIS		







AREA I.	Appropriate	Uncertain	Inappropriate
всс	Recurrent: Aggressive Nodular Primary: Aggressive ≥ 0.6 cm Nodular > 2 cm Nodular (IC) ≥ 1.1 cm	Primary: Aggressive ≤ 0.5 cm Nodular 1.1-2 cm Nodular (IC) 0.6-1 cm Superficial (IC) ≥ 1.1 cm	Recurrent Superficial Primary: Nodular ≤ 1 cm Nodular (IC) ≤ 0.5 cm Superficial Superficial (IC) ≤ 1 cm
scc	Primary or recurrent:  Aggressive Recurrent:  KA-type SCC <sup>†</sup> Nonaggressive* Primary > 2 cm Nonaggressive* In situ SCC/Bowen Primary ≥ 1.1 cm Nonaggressive (IC)*  KA-type SCC <sup>†</sup> In situ SCC/Bowen (IC)  KA-type SCC (IC) ≥ 0.6 cm <sup>†</sup>	Recurrent SCC in situ/Bowen Primary 1.1-2 cm Nonaggressive* SCC in situ/Bowen Primary ≤ 1 cm Nonaggressive (IC)* Primary 0.6-1 cm SCC in situ/Bowen (IC) Primary ≤ 0.5 cm KA-type SCC (IC)†	Primary or recurrent:  AK with focal SCC in situ  Primary ≤ 1 cm  Nonaggressive*  KA-type SCC†  SCC in situ/Bowen  Primary ≤ 0.5 cm  SCC in situ/Bowen (IC)
LM and MIS	Recurrent: LM MIS	Primary: LM MIS	





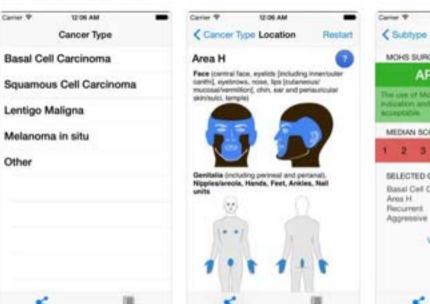
### Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)

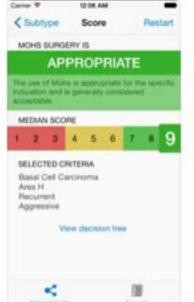
- **Score** 7 **to** 9. The use of MMS is **appropriate** for the specific indication and is generally considered acceptable.
- **Score 4 to 6.** The use of MMS is **uncertain** for the specific indication, although its use may be appropriate and acceptable. Uncertainty implies that more research is needed to classify the indication definitively.
- **Score 1 to 3.** The use of MMS is **inappropriate** for the specific indication and is generally not considered acceptable.
- This scoring system is the basis for insurance reimbursement.
- Fortunately, there is an app that will calculate the AUC.





#### iPhone Screenshots







# III. Mohs Micrographic Surgery Technique



## III. Mohs Micrographic Surgery Technique

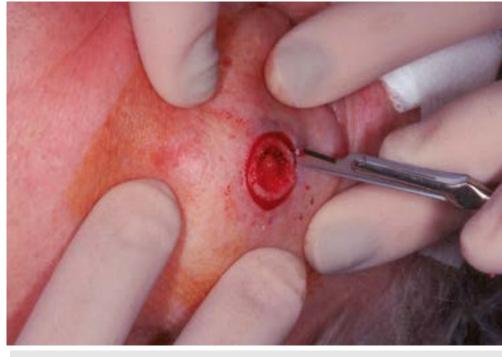
- Specialized method that combines **surgery** and **microscopic margin analysis**.
- A disc or "layer" of tissue around the biopsy site is excised.
- Tissue is divided, inked then processed into a frozen tissue block.
- Tissue is cut into thin sections, placed on slides and stained (H&E).
- Slides are reviewed by the surgeon. If residual tumor is identified, the inking pattern and corresponding "Mohs map" are used to localize the area.
  - En face processing allows for 100% histologic margin examination.
- Process is repeated until no residual tumor is identified.



## III. Mohs Micrographic Surgery Technique



Tumor identified and debulked



Beveled incision with small margin (1-2 mm)

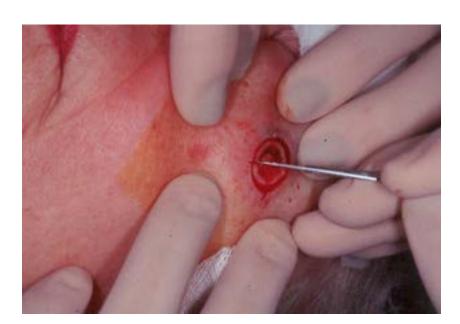
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Source: American College of Mohs

Surgery



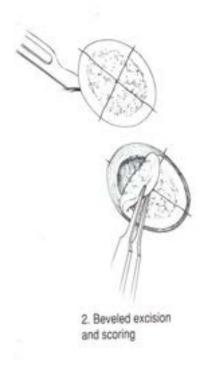
## III. Mohs Micrographic Surgery Technique



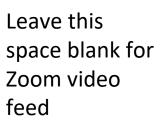
Hatch marks placed for orientation



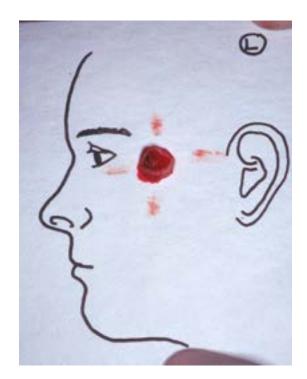
Tissue removed

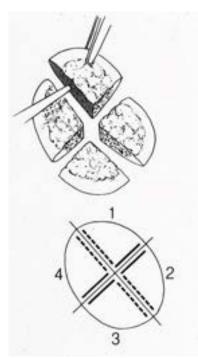


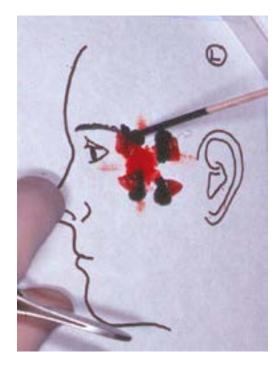
Source: American College of Mohs Surgery











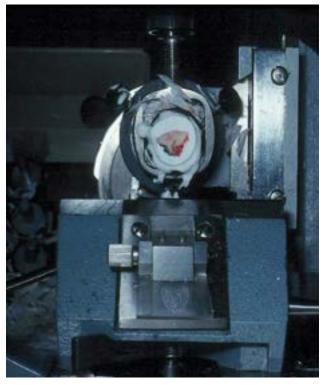
Source: American College of Mohs Surgery

Tissue grossed, inked & mapped by section

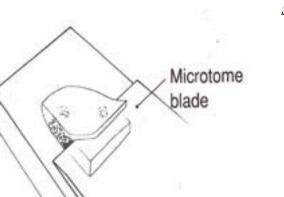




Frozen tissue embedded for horizontal sectioning



Then mounted on cryostat & cut with microtome



Source: American College of Mobs Surgery



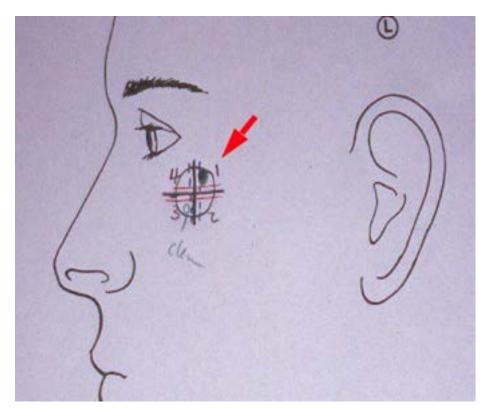


FIGURE 45.9 Specimen slides. (A) Unstained slide: the Mohs technician is able to visually assess for the presence of a complete section. (B) When using H&E stains, an automatic slide stainer can greatly improve the efficiency of the Mohs laboratory; a large number of slides can be batched to improve slide processing and reduce the time between stages of surgery. (C) The slide coverslip has been applied and the slides are ready for examination.

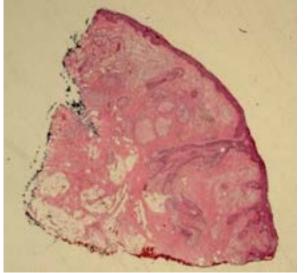


Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)

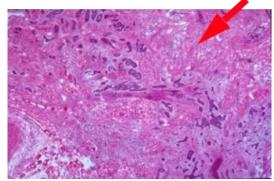




Tumor mapped, if positive

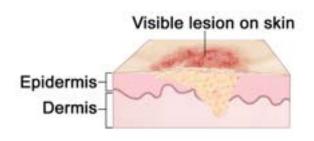


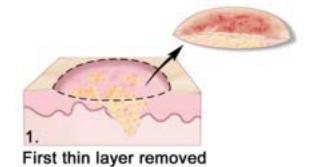
Source: American College of Mohs Surgery





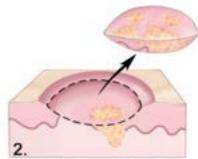
#### **Mohs Surgery**



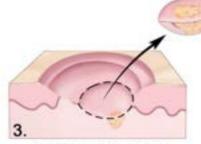




Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



Another thin layer removed



Another thin layer removed



Final layer of cancer removed





Source: American College of Mohs Surgery

Process continued until clear



## Why Mohs?

### Mohs advantages

- 1. High cure rate
- 2. Tissue conservation
- 3. Convenience
- 4. Cost

## **Highest Cure Rate: Mohs**

- 97-99% for primary tumors (at 5 years)
- 94% for recurrent tumors
- Cure rates for other methods
  - Standard excision: 89.9%
    - RR of 0.7-5% for low risk lesions
    - RR of 10-20% for high risk lesions
  - ED&C: 81-96%
  - Radiation: 91%



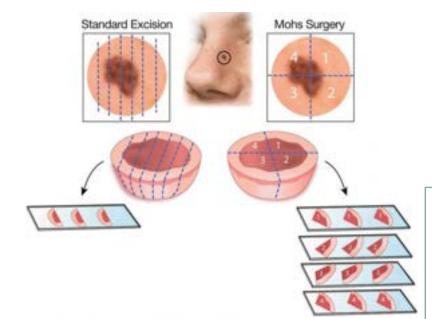
#### Why Mohs?

## Mohs advantages

- 1. High cure rate
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## **Highest Cure Rate: Mohs**

- All of peripheral and deep margin is examined.
- Versus WLE in which only 1% of the tissue is examined because of vertical breadloafing.





#### Why Mohs?

## Mohs advantages

- 1. High cure rate
- 2. Tissue conservation
- 3. Convenience
- 4. Cost

#### **Tissue Conservation**

- Preserves maximal amount of healthy skin
- Smallest surgical defect possible very important in cosmetically sensitive area
  - i. increases the chance of a good aesthetic result.



### Why Mohs?

### Mohs advantages

- 1. High cure rate
- 2. Tissue conservation
- 3. Convenience
- 4. Cost

#### Convenience

- Peripheral margin checked at time of surgery
- Reconstruction performed on same day
- Patient does not have to wait for outside pathologist to clear lesion.
- Reduces need for repeat procedures.



## Why Mohs?

### Mohs advantages

- 1. High Cure Rate
- 2. Tissue Conservation
- 3. Convenience
- 4. Cost

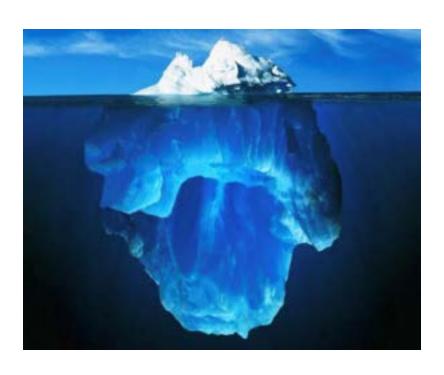
#### **Cost Effective**

• Outpatient setting (not OR), pathology reading included, local anesthesia (not general), lowest recurrence.

	cost	recurrence
Mohs surgery	\$1,243	1%
Destruction	\$652	4% - 19%
Office excision: perm. sections	\$1,167	10.1%
Office excision: frozen sections	\$1,400	10.1%
Ambulatory surgical facility excision	\$1,973	10.1%
Radiation therapy	\$4,558	9%



Sometimes what is seen at the surface is only the tip of the iceberg.









- Secondary intention
- Primary closure
- Graft
- Flaps: Advancement,
   Rotation,
   Transposition,
   Interpolation



• Secondary intention







Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



• Secondary intention





Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)

IV. Mohs

## Reconstruction

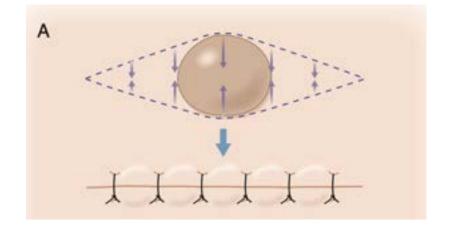
• Secondary intention healing of the ear



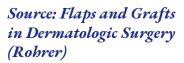
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CME Excellence Since 1946

• Primary Closure











#### • Primary Closure







Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)



#### • Primary Closure







Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



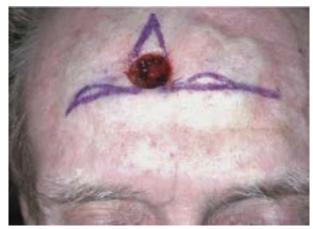
#### **Flaps**

- Advancement
- Rotation
- Transposition
- Interpolation



## Flaps

• Advancement







Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Rohrer)



## **Flaps**

Advancement







Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)



## Flaps

Advancement

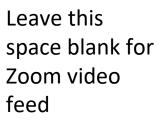














## Flaps

Rotation



Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)



## Flaps

Rotation







Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



## Flaps

Rotation







Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)



## **Flaps**

• Transposition







Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)



# Flaps

Transposition

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Source: Flaps and Grafts in Dermatologic Surgery (Robrer)

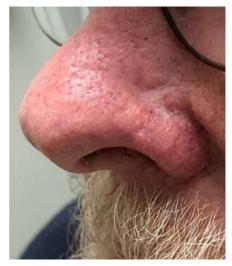


## • Interpolation Flaps









Source: American College of Mobs Surgery



• Full Thickness Skin Grafts













Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



- Wide local excision
- ED&C
- Cryotherapy
- Topical Treatment
- PDT & Lasers
- Radiation
- Misc. Agents



#### Wide Local Excision

- Common treatment for low-risk cancers
- Elliptical excision, linear closure
- Flaps or grafts for larger lesions
- Approximately 90% cure rate



Source: American College of Mohs Surgery



#### ED&C

- Scrape and burn lesion until a healthy base is achieved
- Cure rate dependent on experience
- Lacks margin control (pathologic confirmation)
- Longer healing time and poorer cosmesis than surgery

#### Cryotherapy

- Liquid nitrogen, method of blind destruction
- Used frequently to destroy AKs
- May be used to treat malignancies
- Lacks margin control





Source: American College of Mohs Surgery





#### **Topical Field Treatment**

#### 5-Fluorouracil

- FDA approved for superficial BCC
- BID for 3-6 weeks
- 80% effective for superficial BCC

#### Imiquimod

- FDA approved for superficial BCC
- 5 night weekly for 6 weeks
- 83% effective for superficial BCC





Source: VisualDx

Response to 5-Fluorouracil



## Radiation therapy

- Used when surgery is contraindicated
- Typically reserved for patients over 60
- May be very effective in certain areas
- Primary vs. adjuvant role (with surgery)
  - i. Primary: patients who are unable to tolerate surgery
  - ii. Adjuvant: for high risk tumors
- Requires multiple treatments over 4 to 8 weeks
- Tumor may recur in more aggressive form



Source: American College of Mobs Surgery



#### Superficial Radiation Therapy

• X-ray based, requires multiple patient visits.

#### How does SRT compare to MMS?

- Inferior long-term cure rates compared to Mohs surgery
- Requires multiple treatment visits
- Higher cost
- Limited published literature on its side effects.

SRT should only be considered as a second-line treatment option under special circumstances for non-surgical candidates.

	SRT	MMS
Efficacy and Patient Burden		3/
Number of Visits to Complete Treatment*	5-30	1-2
Published Recurrence Rates for Primary BCC**	4.2 - 15.8%	1.0 - 2.5%
Published Recurrence Rates for cSCC**	5.8 - 10.7%	2.6 - 3.1%
Published Follow-up	Short (1-3 years)	Long (5-10 years)
Pathologic Confirmation of Margin Status	No (disease control determined by clinical exam +/- ultrasound)	Yes (frazen section histology)
Expert Consensus Recommendations		
AAD Position Statement	Second-line option when surgery is contraindicated	Most effective treatment option with the highest cure rates
NCCN Guidelines	Second-line option for non-surgical candidates	First-line treatment for high-risk BC0 and low-, high- and very-high risk cSCC risk
Scope of Practice / Level of Training***	10-	
Residency Curriculum Requirement	No	Yes
Fellowship Training Available/Encouraged	No	Yes
Board Certification***	No	Yes

<sup>&</sup>quot;Depending on a pre-op evaluation



<sup>5-</sup>year relapse free survival rate

<sup>&</sup>quot;Current board certification for MMS requires a minimum number of cases and/or fellowship training

**Metastatic NMSC:** Aggressive local surgery, lymph node dissection, and postoperative radiation therapy are often needed.

- Chemotherapy for metastatic SCC is usually administered by oncologists and typically includes EGFR inhibitors
- For metastatic BCC, vismodegib or sonidegib can be considered.
- **Vismodegib:** selective inhibitor of Hedgehog pathway activation via binding to the protein Smoothened, treatment option for locally advanced or metastatic BCC.
  - O Side effects: dysguesia (40%), muscle spasms, alopecia, nausea, reduced appetite, diarrhea, fatigue, SCCs, cough, CHF, pneumonia.



## VI. Mohs & Melanoma Treatment



#### VI. Mohs & Melanoma Treatment

- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommends wide local excision (WLE) for all cutaneous melanomas.
  - O Mohs may be considered for minimally invasive (melanoma in situ or T1a) melanoma in anatomically constrained areas (i.e. face, ears, acral sites) along with other methods that provide comprehensive histologic assessment such as staged excision with permanent sections.
- Use of MMS for melanoma in the United States increased 304% from 2001 (2.6% of melanomas) to 2016 (7.9% of melanomas).

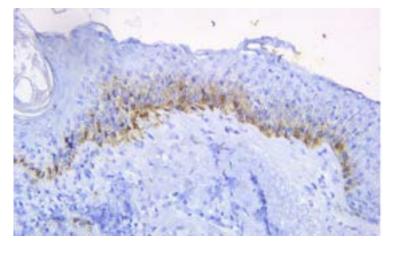


#### VI. Mohs & Melanoma Treatment

- 2022 Meta-analysis showed **significantly lower recurrence rate** for all types of cutaneous melanoma with **MMS** (<1%) compared to staged excision (3%) and wide local excision (7%).
  - Other studies have found local recurrence rates for MMS that vary: 0 2.6%

• Procedure uses **MART-1** immunostaining to provides tissue conservation and sameday reconstruction of histologically verified tumor-free margins in a convenient,

single-day procedure.



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