

Advanced Dermatology Care

Mohs Surgery

Mohs surgery is a specialized technique for removing skin cancers. Instead of taking a large amount of skin all around a skin cancer and having a pathologist later examines it later in order to try and make sure all the cancerous cells are gone, Mohs surgery removes the smallest amount of normal tissue possible. This is especially important in areas such as the face, where it's important to have a good cosmetic outcome as well as remove the cancer.

In Mohs surgery, as the cancer is excised, each section is microscopically examined to determine if any cancer cells are still present. If any cells remain, only the cancer cells and as few as possible normal cells next to that area are removed.

Dr. OJ Rustad completed his four year Dermatology residency program at the University of Minnesota. He then was selected for a Cutaneous Surgery Fellowship at the University of MN in 1990. During this fellowship, he received further extensive surgical training in Mohs skin cancer surgeries as well as cosmetic surgeries and procedures. This additional training has allowed him to develop proficiency in the various surgeries of the skin. After years of providing surgical treatments to patients from the outpatient surgical suites of local hospitals, Dr. OJ Rustad has provided these outpatient surgeries from ADC's on-site outpatient surgical suites since 2000. He has therefore been able to conveniently, regularly, and more cost effectively offer these services, including Mohs skin cancer surgery, directly at ADC. Dr. OJ Rustad has performed well over 1,800 Mohs surgeries, including their necessary reconstructions. He and his staff enjoy providing this service for our patients as well as for the patients of other referring health care providers, and believe this is a great asset to our community from our practice.

Dr. Rustad is a member of the American Society for Mohs Surgery (ASMS) and has been since 2000. This organization was established in 1990 to "promote the highest standards of patient care relating to Mohs surgery for the surgical removal of skin cancer and other appropriate malignancies: to establish quality assurance and regular peer review of Mohs surgeons;...The ASMS explains " Mohs surgery is not only a tissue-sparing surgical treatment, it has the highest cure rate for skin cancers. Mohs surgery has "been shown to be a highly effective treatment for certain types of skin cancer, with a cure rate of up to 99% for certain tumors. Due to the fact that the Mohs procedure is micrographically controlled, it provides the most precise method for removal of the cancerous tissue, while sparing the greatest amount of healthy tissue. For this reason, Mohs surgery may result in a significantly smaller surgical defect and less noticeable scarring, as compared to other methods of skin cancer treatment. The Mohs procedure is recommended for skin cancer removal in anatomic areas where maximum preservation of healthy tissue is desirable for cosmetic and functional purposes. It may also be indicated for lesions that have recurred following prior treatment, or for lesions which have the greatest likelihood of recurrence."