What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?
Named after Dr. Frederic Mohs, the surgeon who developed the technique, Mohs micrographic surgery is a highly effective and specialized treatment procedure for skin cancer. It provides a very high cure rate while removing as little skin as possible. This outpatient procedure begins with injecting the skin with a local anesthetic. The surgeon then removes the visible cancerous skin leaving the surrounding healthy tissue intact and unharmed. The skin sample is then processed and examined under a microscope to ensure all of the cancer has been excised. If necessary this process is repeated until all the cancer has been removed.

How Effective is Mohs Surgery?
Mohs surgery has the highest success rate of all treatments for skin cancer – up to 99 percent. It is the best treatment for cancers of the face and other sensitive areas because it relies on the accuracy of a microscopic surgical procedure to trace the edges of the cancer and ensure complete removal of all tumors down to the roots during the initial surgery.

Will I have a Scar?
Yes. All skin cancer surgical treatments will leave a scar. However, because Mohs surgery removes as little normal tissue as possible, scarring can be minimized. After the cancer is removed Dr. Lim will discuss the options to: 1) Leave the wound to heal by itself; 2) Repair the wound side to side with stitches; 3) Shift healthy skin from nearby to cover the wound (flap) or 4) Cover with a skin graft. This decision is based on the safest method that will provide the best cosmetic result.

The Day of Surgery:
You are scheduled for an appointment at Valley Skin Cancer Surgery located at 1100 S. Dobson Road, Ste. 223. Please check in at the front desk jointly used for both East Valley Dermatology Center and for Valley Skin Cancer Surgery. After check-in, you will be escorted to the VSCS outpatient surgical suite.

Thank you for arriving on time for your scheduled appointment to avoid delays for other patients.

Mohs Procedure Instructions

Preparing for surgery
- On the day of procedure, eat breakfast and take all your usual prescribed medications.
- If you are taking aspirin (NOTE: Unless prescribed by a physician for heart disease or stroke), ibuprofen or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, vitamin E (including multivitamins with vitamin E) and herbal medications as a preventative measure, please stop taking them 7-14 days before the procedure. Tylenol can be taken as needed at any time for headaches or pain as it does not prolong bleeding.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages preferably 7 days prior to procedure as this can affect bleeding during and after the surgery.
- Stop tobacco use for 2 weeks before and after surgery as this may affect healing and cosmetic outcome.

- A local anesthetic will be used to numb the affected skin and the area surrounding it.
- You may be asked to refrain from activities such as bending, lifting, golf, swimming, tennis, or other activities for 1-4 weeks after the procedure.
- Please bring the completed patient information form on the day of your procedure if it has not been updated recently or list of medical problems and medications.
- Mohs surgery is performed in stages so the process can take the entire day. Please do not schedule any other appointments on the day of procedure to avoid scheduling conflicts. If you are scheduled in the morning, you may want to bring a sack lunch or snacks.
- It is helpful to have someone accompany you. Your companion may sit with you during the waiting periods, bring you a meal and drive you home.
- Bring something to do (e.g. book, magazine, crossword puzzles, knitting) while you are waiting for the tissue to be checked under the microscope.

Appointment Cancellations
Please call the office if there is need to cancel/reschedule Mohs surgery by calling (480)214-0388 during business hours (7 am to 5 pm, Monday thru Friday). We request a 48 hour cancellation notice in advance to accommodate the needs of all our patients.
About Katherine Lim, M.D.

Dr. Lim grew up in the Chicagoland area. She attended Northwestern University for a combined six-year undergraduate bachelor's degree in science and medical degree. After medical school, she completed a year of internal medicine at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s medical center in Chicago.

She went on to Mayo Clinic Rochester for three years of dermatology residency. She stayed on at Mayo Clinic for additional one year fellowship specializing in Mohs and dermatologic surgery. She was privileged to have training with several top-notch mentors including her fellowship director, Dr. Randall Roenigk, one of the most well-respected pioneers in this field.

After training, she was offered the blessed opportunity to work at Mayo Clinic Arizona in Scottsdale where she was on faculty for twelve years and she continues to provide services for Mayo Clinic on a supplemental basis as needed.

Dr. Lim is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and has been a fellow of the American College of Mohs Surgery, whose requirements include qualified fellowship training and significant number of logged surgical cases.

Dr. Lim is married to Derek Quan, who is a Pastor at Greater Phoenix Chinese Christian Church in Chandler, AZ. They are blessed with two precious girls who bring much joy to their lives.

Our Location:
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MOHS Micrographic Surgery

An Information Pamphlet for Patients of

Valley Skin Cancer Surgery

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