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LESS IS MOHS

One procedure used to remove skin cancers is called Mohs micrographic surgery. With this procedure, the physician is the surgeon and the pathologist. A Mohs surgeon using this technique removes multiple thin, horizontal layers of the cancer in a grid pattern, sending the samples to the lab for microscopic examination. The Mohs surgeon then examines the tissue under the microscope and if he finds any cancerous cells anywhere, he continues to remove layers of tissue until he can find no more evidence of cancer. "Mohs surgery provides the highest cure rate of any cancer treatment," says Arthur Balin, M.D., Ph.D., clinical professor of dermatology and research professor of pathology at M.C.P. Hahnemann University School of Medicine, Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in Philadelphia.