

## About

# Dr. David A. Cowan

- Assistant Clinical Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Dermatology
- Fellowship, Emory University, Procedural Dermatology and Mohs Surgery
- Residency, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Dermatology, Resident and Chief Resident
- Internship, George Washington University, Department of Medicine, Preliminary Medicine
- MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society, Merck Scholar
- BA, University of Rochester, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

## Insurance Coverage and Cost

We accept assignment on Medicare claims and will be happy to assist in filing insurance claims for you. In addition, our staff will help obtain prior authorization for the procedure if necessary.

Co-pays and deductibles however are expected to be paid on the day of your surgery.

## Telephone Calls

Please call our office at 1-877-661-3376 with questions concerning your medications, skin care or the services we offer. In the event of an after hours emergency or complication, Dr. Cowan can be contacted by calling the same number above.

## For More Information

More information is available by visiting [www.BHSDermatology.org](http://www.BHSDermatology.org) or by speaking with Dr. Cowan and his staff.

## Scheduling Appointments

When scheduling, please let us know if you:

- Are taking medications such as aspirin, clopidogrel, warfarin or other blood thinners
- Have an artificial joint(s)
- Require pre-procedure antibiotics for surgery or dental procedures due to heart valve disease or a history of rheumatic fever
- Have a pacemaker or implanted automatic defibrillator

We make every effort to honor your appointment time; however, the nature of this procedure makes it difficult to predict the schedule. We ask for your patience if your procedure is delayed.

For surgery-related problems that require immediate attention, please call our office as early in the day as possible. We will make every effort to see you that day.

## My Mohs Surgery Appointment

Date/Day \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_



## BHS Dermatology

DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

**BUTLER**

Benbrook Medical Center I  
102 Technology Drive, Suite 240

**1-877-661-3376**

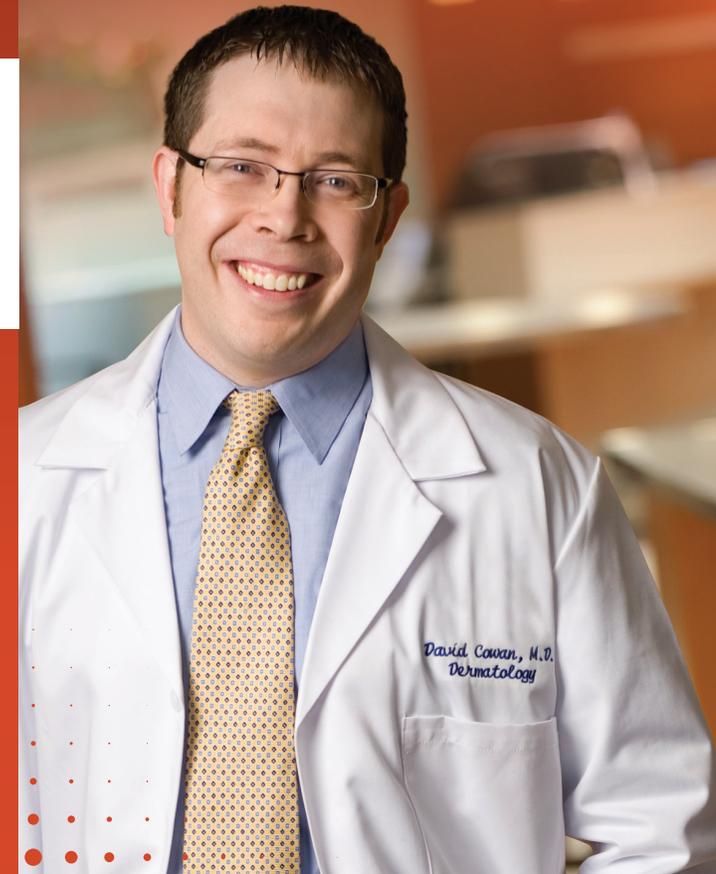
 [BHSDermatology.org](http://BHSDermatology.org)



# BHS Dermatology

DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

## A Patient's Guide Mohs Surgery



# About Mohs Surgery

## Mohs micrographic surgery is a highly specialized state-of-the-art treatment for skin cancer.

Only physicians who have been specially trained in this technique perform this procedure. Dr. Cowan has received advanced training in surgery, pathology, and facial reconstructive surgery and has completed the procedure successfully for thousands of patients.

### The Mohs Difference

Mohs micrographic surgery differs from other treatments for skin cancer by combining surgical removal of the affected skin with microscopic analysis of the tissue that day.

This helps to ensure that all of the cancer has been removed, while leaving the surrounding healthy skin intact and unharmed.

By using very detailed mapping techniques and microscopic examination of cancerous tissue, the “roots” of the skin cancer are extracted in a very precise and accurate manner, giving Mohs micrographic surgery the highest cure rate of any procedure used in the treatment of skin cancer.

### Other Advantages

- Mohs micrographic surgery is minimally invasive and performed in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia.
- It has up to a 99% cure rate — the lowest chance of recurrence or re-growth of the tumor provided by any treatment method for skin cancer.
- Mohs results in the smallest wound possible, thereby minimizing your scar.

### About the Procedure

You will be contacted prior to your appointment with further instructions and information. When you arrive at the office, a member of our staff will review your medical history and details of the procedure. Next, Dr. Cowan will confirm the exact location of the area to be treated and numb it with a local anesthetic.

Once numbed, a thin layer of skin will be surgically removed and a bandage placed over the site. The layer of removed tissue is taken to the lab where it is processed. This first procedure (or ‘stage’) usually takes one to two hours. During this time, you will be asked to wait either in the waiting room or in the procedure room, so you may want to bring a book or magazine. Please DO NOT leave the office during the waiting period.

Each stage requires one to two hours (sometimes longer) and typically the skin cancer can be removed in one to three stages. Once the cancer has been removed, Dr. Cowan will talk to you about the best way to reconstruct the defect left by surgery. If required, stitching can take an additional hour. You should plan to be in the office for the entire day, but many patients may be discharged in four to five hours (sometimes less). We provide breakfast, lunch and light refreshments for you and your family.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q. Will the surgery leave a scar?

Any form of treatment for skin cancer will leave a wound or scar. Because Mohs surgery is tissue sparing, your scar is minimized compared to other surgical techniques. Once the cancer has been removed completely, Dr. Cowan will discuss wound repair options with you.

### Before Your Appointment

- Continue all prescribed medications unless instructed otherwise. The morning of surgery, take all of your medication as you normally do. Please call our office if you have questions about the medication you are currently taking.
- Avoid alcohol for at least 24 hours prior to and following surgery, as it may increase the risk of bleeding.
- Eat a normal breakfast on the morning of surgery, as you may be in the office for several hours.
- DO NOT wear makeup, lotion, perfume, jewelry or nail polish if it will cover or interfere with the surgical site. Patients with a lesion on the face, ear or neck should not wear any makeup or face lotion.
- If possible, wear a shirt that buttons down the front.
- In most cases, we recommend you have someone drive you to and from the office on the day of your surgery. If you would like, your companion may remain with you during the procedure.

#### Q. When are sutures removed?

Before you leave the office, we will schedule an appointment for removal of sutures and follow up with the doctor. Typically this is scheduled 7 to 14 days after the surgical procedure, unless dissolvable sutures are used.

#### Q. Is recovery painful?

Discomfort from surgery varies with each patient. A pain reliever may be prescribed. Extra-strength acetaminophen, anti-inflammatory medications or a prescription pain medication is often sufficient.