History of Mohs surgery.


Abstract

Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) has become the gold standard for treating many forms of primary and recurrent contiguous skin cancers and offers the highest cure rates and maximum tissue conservation compared with other modalities. Developed by Dr Frederic E. Mohs in the 1930s, it was initially called chemosurgery and used zinc chloride paste in a process called fixed tissue technique. Although this technique had high cure rates, it could take days to complete, and it gradually gave way to fresh tissue technique, renamed MMS. Now, MMS is practiced widely as part of a multidisciplinary approach for treating skin cancer.

Mohs surgery. Technique, indications, applications, and the future.


Abstract

Each year, it is estimated, more than 500,000 new cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer develop. The majority of these cutaneous neoplasms are treated by various modalities that include excision, electrodesiccation and curettage, cryosurgery, and irradiation, with greater than 90% success. Certain of the remaining primary tumors, as well as recurrent carcinomas, present a demanding therapeutic challenge. For these lesions, Mohs surgery has evolved as the most reliable and cost-effective treatment modality,
offering maximal preservation of normal tissue and therefore the lowest functional and cosmetic morbidity. In this review, the history and evolution of Mohs surgery and the technique itself will be briefly outlined. The indications for Mohs surgery, together with methods of handling the postoperative wound and future applications of the technique, will be discussed in detail.

PMID:
6351758