

## Mayo Clinic Minute

### How Mohs surgery is used to fight skin cancer

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Mohs surgery is an outpatient technique for treating skin cancer, whereby a doctor removes and immediately evaluates a skin sample.
<b>Title:</b> <b>Juan-Carlos Martinez, M.D.</b> <b>Dermatology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	“We’re able to flatten that three-dimensional piece of tissue down on to a two-dimensional plane, which, in this case, is a glass slide.”
	During the removal process, dermatologist Dr. Juan-Carlos Martinez takes special care to maintain the orientation of the affected tissue.
	<i>Sound of a slide being sprayed</i>
	Slides of the sample are then created and examined under a microscope.
Juan-Carlos Martinez, M.D.	“If we see normal tissue, all the way around and underneath, then we know that the cancerous process was inside of what we’ve just excised. And that is how you provide a cure.”
	However, if cancer is seen on an edge, Dr. Martinez returns to the patient to remove more tissue, but only from the area where cancer is still present.
Juan-Carlos Martinez, M.D.	“We know what’s up, down, right and left – we know exactly where that patient still has tumor on them.”
<b>Graphic:</b> <b>Spares normal tissue</b> <b>High cure rate</b>	Dr. Martinez says not only does Mohs surgery spare as much normal tissue as possible, its cure rate is around 99 percent for most skin cancers.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Jeff Olsen.