



Tamara S. Housman, MD
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Raleigh Skin Surgery Center



We are located in the Raleigh Medical Center building on the lobby level.


*Raleigh Skin
Surgery Center, PLLC*



*Offering excellence in
skin cancer treatment*

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**Clinic Hours
7:30am - 4:30pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed on Friday**

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A board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Housman earned her medical degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky. She completed her internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and her dermatology residency at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She completed her Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Procedural Dermatology fellowship, accredited by both the American College of Mohs Surgery and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, at the University of Washington in Seattle. Following fellowship, Dr. Housman was the founder and medical director of Providence Dermatologic Surgery in Portland, Oregon. She has published over 29 peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Housman is a member of the American College of Mohs Surgery, American Academy of Dermatology, American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, North Carolina Medical Society, and the North Carolina Dermatology Association.

Raleigh Skin Surgery Center is pleased to offer patients the option of Mohs Micrographic Surgery - a highly effective method of removing skin cancer. **This specialized surgery has the highest cure rate for certain types of skin cancer**, including basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas.

The Precision of Mohs

The Mohs surgery process, a specific sequence of surgery and tissue examination, allows surgeons to identify and remove cancerous tumors with great precision, leaving healthy skin unharmed. The entire process is completed in one outpatient appointment.

When is Mohs Surgery Appropriate

Certain skin cancers are more readily cured by Mohs surgery than by other treatments, because the procedure allows the physician to examine more completely the tissue affected.

Mohs Surgery is Appropriate in any of the Following Situations:

- The cancer affects the face, especially cosmetically sensitive areas such as the eyelids, nose, ears, and lips.
- The cancer has been unsuccessfully treated or has recurred after previous treatment.
- The tumor is large or has poorly defined edges or borders.
- The cancer appears to be growing aggressively.

What Happens During the Procedure?

In Mohs surgery, once a visible tumor is removed, the surgeon then removes an additional thin layer of tissue from the tumor site. This tissue is cut into sections, then marked and plotted to identify its original location on the patient's body. By examining the tissue with a microscope, the surgeon can determine if any tumor cells remain and can locate them precisely on a tissue "map." If tumor cells are present at the edge of a tissue specimen, the surgeon removes more tissue from the patient in that exact location.

This process is repeated until no further cancer is seen under the microscope. The Mohs procedure creates the smallest possible incision and removes a minimal amount of tissue until the exact boundaries of the tumor are identified.

The Most Effective Cure for Skin Cancer

When the procedure is complete, there is greater certainty that all the cancer has been removed because the borders of the specimen are more thoroughly examined than with conventional surgery. The cure rate of Mohs surgery is the highest of all treatments for basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers - up to 99 percent, even if other forms of treatment have failed.

Qualifications of a Mohs Surgeon

To become certified in Mohs surgery, a physician must complete at least one year of training in a fellowship accredited by the American College of Mohs Surgery. Most Mohs surgeons have completed a residency program in dermatology prior to their Mohs training.

When choosing a Mohs surgeon, look for the *American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS)* logo. The distinction is in the training and experience.

