

Mohs effective for melanoma in situ of trunk, extremities

October 28 2016



(HealthDay)—Mohs micrographic surgery is efficacious for melanoma

in situ (MIS) on the trunk and proximal extremities, with a margin of 9 mm needed to excise 97 percent of MIS, according to a study published in the November issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Landon E. Stigall, M.D., from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Shadyside, and colleagues examined the efficacy of Mohs micrographic surgery for MIS of the trunk and proximal extremities. They retrospectively analyzed data for long-term outcomes in 882 cases of MIS.

The researchers identified one local recurrence (0.1 percent). Just 83 percent of MIS were excised with a 6-mm margin. Ninety-seven percent of MIS needed margins of 9 mm, which was statistically equivalent to thin melanomas.

"Mohs micrographic surgery may cure the 17 percent of MIS that exceed traditional excision margins of 5 mm and is a valuable option for these patients," the authors write. "Surgical margins of at least 0.9 cm should be considered for MIS of the [trunk](#) and extremities when total margin evaluation is not used."

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Mohs effective for melanoma in situ of trunk, extremities (2016, October 28) retrieved 7 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-10-mohs-effective-melanoma-situ-trunk.html>

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