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The  $k$ -planar crossing number  $cr_k(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is  $\min_{G_1 \cup G_2 \cup \dots \cup G_k = G} \{cr(G_1) + cr(G_2) + \dots + cr(G_k)\}$ , where  $cr$  is the planar crossing number. We give near tight upper bounds for  $cr_k(G)$  in terms of a constant multiple of  $cr(G)$ . (Received September 08, 2014)