

Carolina Skin Surgery Center Monthly Newsletter

November

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Edition 9

What happens in the lab?

By: Tara Haltom and April LeClear

If you are having Mohs Micrographic Surgery, it means that you have a biopsy-proven skin cancer that needs to be completely removed. Dr. Carruth is the surgeon and the pathologist. He will remove a sample of the skin cancer and bring it across the hall to the in-office lab to be processed by a technician. The technician's job is to stain the tissue so Dr. Carruth can evaluate the specimen under a microscope. He is able to tell if the cancer is still present or if it has been completely removed.

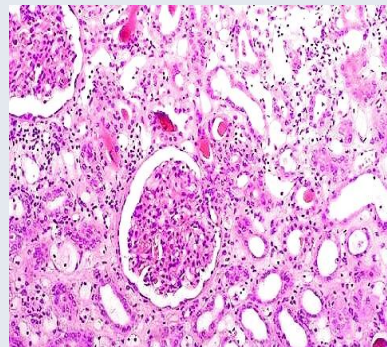
So, what does the technician do to the specimen in the lab? The technician will cut the tissue to help it lay flat on a metal disc that has been frozen to -24 degrees. A machine, called a Cryostat, freezes the tissue and cuts very thin layers of the tissue. The layers are cut thinner than one strand of your hair. The small layers are placed on a clear microscope slide. The tissue then goes through an automatic staining process and is dipped in a few different chemicals that will make the cancer cells visible to Dr. Carruth under the microscope. This process takes about 45 minutes to complete. Dr. Carruth will then review the slide. If he finds that cancer is still present then he will need to take more tissue and the staining process will repeat (adding another 45 minutes to the surgery time). If Dr. Carruth finds that the cancer has been completely removed then he will begin the discussion of repair options.



A. Microscope



B. Microscope Slide



C. Cancer cells under the
microscope

Employee Spotlight

The employee spotlight for the month of November is Sandy. Sandy has been a part of the team since 2010.

Let's get to know Sandy:

Favorite color: country pinks and blues

Favorite food: pepperoni pizza

Hobby: yard work

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? A truck driver or an interior decorator

Thank you for all your hard work Sandy!

Announcements for November:

1. November 27th is Thanksgiving!
CSSC will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

After Hours Emergency calls:

Dr. Carruth or Lisa Matuga, PA are always available after hours, on the weekend, and on Holidays. Call the main number (704-295-0000) and follow the prompts to reach them if you have an emergency.

OUR MISSION

Carolina Skin Surgery Center is comprised of a skilled team of compassionate individuals that are dedicated to caring for our patients like we wish to be cared for ourselves. We take pride in providing high quality, individualized care to meet the specific needs of each patient. Our team is committed to educating ourselves and continuously improving our processes so we can better educate and serve our patients.

CAROLINA SKIN SURGERY CENTER

"Specializing in the treatment of skin cancer"

About Dr. Carruth:

Dr. Marc R. Carruth is the Director of Carolina Skin Surgery Center. Dr. Carruth received his M.D. degree from Duke University where he graduated with highest honors in 1993 and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Carruth completed his internship in Internal Medicine at Harvard, Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and a Dermatology residency at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he was chief resident. Dr. Carruth completed his Mohs Micrographic and Dermatologic Surgery fellowship at Baptist Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Carruth is known for his personable bedside manner and has been providing excellent care to patients in the Charlotte region since 1997. He has performed thousands of Mohs micrographic procedures during his tenure.

About Lisa Matuga, PA-C:

Lisa has been a Physician Assistant for over 5 years and has been providing excellent dermatologic care in the Charlotte area for over two years.

Lisa received her Master of Science in Medicine and graduated from the Physician Assistant Program at Western Michigan University in 2008. She has a passion for helping patients with their dermatological needs and we are very excited to have her as a part of our team.

Meet the Staff:

Receptionist: Sandy - She always has a smile on her face and is willing to help with anything. Sandy has been with Dr. Carruth since April of 2010.

Billing: Cathy – Understanding health insurance can be overwhelming, but Cathy is always willing to call and verify benefits and then explain them to you as simply as possible. Cathy has been with Dr. Carruth since December of 2008.

Surgery Coordinator/Medical Assistant: Ashley – She assists Dr. Carruth and Lisa Matuga, PA-C with procedures and also handles the surgery scheduling. If you have had Mohs surgery then you have probably spoken with her! Ashley has been with Dr. Carruth since May of 2011.

Lab Technician / Medical Assistant: Tara – She is the one who processes the tissue for Dr. Carruth to review under the microscope (Mohs surgery). She also assists Dr. Carruth and Lisa with procedures. She has been with Dr. Carruth since September of 2007.

Registered Medical Assistant/Lab Technician: Jackie – She assists Dr. Carruth and Lisa with procedures and also helps process the tissue in the lab. Jackie has been with Dr. Carruth since October of 2008.

Certified Surgical Technician: Cynthia – She assists Dr. Carruth and Lisa with procedures and has been with Dr. Carruth since September of 2009.

Medical Assistant / Surgery Coordinator: Chiffon – our newest member! Chiffon started with us on 3-17-14. Chiffon is assisting Lisa Matuga, PA-C with patients and handles surgery scheduling. We are happy to have her on our team.

Office Manager: April has been with Dr. Carruth since August of 2006. Please let her know if you have any suggestions or comments – we encourage feedback and are always willing to learn.

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