

# Carolina Skin Surgery Center Monthly Newsletter

April

4/1/2014

Edition 2

## *A Message about Mohs*

“Why do we ask patients to take a picture of the biopsy site? “

By: Ashley Lilly

A lot of our patients wonder why it is beneficial to take a photo of the biopsy site(s) after being diagnosed with skin cancer. The biopsy site may heal in one to two weeks. If your appointment is scheduled for more than two

picture: 1) take a photo of a biopsy after it has been performed (even before you know the diagnosis), 2) take a photo while the site is healing (ex: bandage or scab on the area,) 3) draw a circle

## *Why do we ask patients to take a picture of the biopsy site?*

weeks out and the biopsy site has healed, we may not be able to locate the area. If Dr. Carruth is not sure of the site, surgery will not be performed. Having a photo is for reassurance for everyone. It also prevents us from having to delay your surgery even further.

The most frequent question asked from patients about taking a picture is, “How will it show up in a photo?” Here are a few ways to take a good

around the healed area with a washable marker, and 4) point to the area with a ruler, pen, finger, etc, and take a picture.

One of the problems patients face is that they do not have a camera to take a photo or it is in a place where they cannot see it themselves (ex: on the back, back of scalp, etc) If this is the case, try asking a family member, friend, neighbor,

## *What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?*

•••

Mohs (rhymes with toes) Micrographic Surgery is an advanced treatment procedure for skin cancer which offers the highest potential for recovery – even if the skin cancer has been previously treated. This procedure is a state-of-the-art skin cancer treatment in which the physician serves as surgeon, pathologist, and reconstructive surgeon. The procedure was developed by Frederic Mohs, M.D. in the 1930's and has undergone several modifications throughout the years. It relies on the precision and accuracy of a microscope to trace and ensure removal of skin cancer down to its roots. The goal of the procedure is to remove the skin cancer totally while minimizing the amount of normal noncancerous skin removed in the process. The highly trained surgeons that perform Mohs Micrographic Surgery are specialists in both Dermatology and Skin Pathology. Properly trained Mohs surgeons have completed an internship and residency in Dermatology following medical school, plus a fellowship program approved by the American College of Mohs Surgery that includes extensive training in Pathology and reconstructive surgery for at least five years of specialized training beyond medical school.

etc. What if your biopsy site is unidentifiable by the time your physician gives you the results? If this happens, it would be advisable that you make an appointment with

your physician for site verification. Please note that your picture does not have to be printed. If you have a camera phone and would just like to show us

once you arrive, you may do that or you may email to [patient@carolinaskinsurgery.com](mailto:patient@carolinaskinsurgery.com).

## Announcements

1. We are happy to announce the newest addition to our team, Chiffon! Chiffon is a Medical Assistant with about 4 years experience as a Medical Assistant. She will be working in the front office and assisting Lisa Matuga, PA-C. Help us give her a warm welcome when you see her!
2. We are also happy to announce that our Surgery Coordinator/Medical Assistant, Ashley, just got married on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We wish her the best of luck!
3. This month we will also be celebrating Administrative Professionals Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are so appreciative of Sandy (receptionist) and Cathy (billing)
4. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Sandy will be celebrating her 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary at CSSC! We are so lucky to have her!

## CSSC Word Search

V L Y G D E N U V H N O A J O  
L A T G E W M I K G C L S B Y  
O R S K J H P O N K F B S Q S  
T H W P R T S G C C M N I U P  
X G D V E I B F E L O H S I O  
M O H S T C V H C I E C T R I  
R G A E Q V I A T A H W A K B  
R E A S S U R A N C E F N D I  
K A J X D O C L L T O N T D L  
V T D H L I A A L I E U R D K  
F R L I F R Z G M M Z A P T M  
V N N I E R U T C I P E M O M  
Y A R M G E X S Y H J D D E O  
D E A F X N Q O Q N G D S S B  
V C S X E M D M B I O Y X L K

WORD LIST  
ASSISTANT  
BIOPSY  
CAMERA  
CAROLINA  
MOHS  
PICTURE  
REASSURANCE  
SITE  
SPECIALIZED  
TEAM  
TOES  
VERIFICATION  
WELCOME

# 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/Certified 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/Front Office Assistant: Chiffon – our newest member! Chiffon started with us on 3-17-14. She is learning a lot of new information and we are happy to have her join 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.

**CAROLINA SKIN SURGERY CENTER**

**2615 E. 7<sup>TH</sup> ST.**

**CHARLOTTE, NC 28204**

**Phone: 704-295-0000**

**Fax: 704-295-0005**

**[www.carolinaskinsurgery.com](http://www.carolinaskinsurgery.com)**