

# Carolina Skin Surgery Center Monthly Newsletter

December

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## Common Wound Care Questions

By: Chiffon M., CCMA

So you have had Mohs Micrographic Surgery and now it is time to care for the wound. When the surgery is over you are told to begin wound care in 24 or 48 hours after the surgery depending on the type of wound repair performed.

Wound care consists of:

- 1) Washing the surgical site with a mild soap, such as Dove or Dial, mixed in luke warm water.
- 2) Applying Vaseline and a non-stick gauze and securing it with tape.

A common question that patients ask is why we recommend Vaseline instead of Neosporin, Polysporin, Bacitracin, or Aquaphor.

Dr. Carruth prefers Vaseline because it is a non-irritating product. Neosporin and other antibiotic ointments will keep the surgical site moist, but studies have shown that they can also lead to an allergic reaction in approximately 10% of patients who use them.

Vaseline not only keeps the surgical site clean, but also provides a barrier layer that keeps the surgical site covered. This means that Vaseline helps keep germs out and decreases the risk of infection. It also keeps the site hydrated and improves the healing process. Studies have shown there is no difference in infection rates between Vaseline and Bacitracin applied to surgical wounds.

Another question people often ask is: Is it okay to leave surgical site open to the air?

The answer is No. Leaving the surgical site open to the air so that it can “breathe” is a mistake because wound care studies have shown that wounds heal 40% faster in a moist healing environment.

Our goal is to help you heal as quickly as possible with the best cosmetic outcome so we strongly encourage you to follow the wound care instructions we give you.

## *Announcements for December:*

- December 1<sup>st</sup> is Cathy's SEVEN year anniversary!
- December 5<sup>th</sup> is Sandy's birthday!
- December 20<sup>th</sup> is Lisa's birthday!
- Our office is closed on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you have an emergency, you can still reach the Provider on call. Just dial the main number (704-295-0000), press 1, and follow the prompts. A Provider will call you back.

## *Like us on Facebook*

- [Facebook.com/pages/Carolina-Skin-Surgery-Center](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Carolina-Skin-Surgery-Center)

## *Check out our Blog*

- [Carolinaskinsurgery.com/blog](http://Carolinaskinsurgery.com/blog)
- Tell us what you would like to read or learn more about relative to our scope of practice and we will try our best to make it happen.



Merry Christmas from the Carolina Skin Surgery Center team!

## 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 7 years and has been providing excellent dermatologic care in the Charlotte area for over four 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 proud 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 Specialist: **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 / Certified Clinical 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.

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.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant / Surgery Coordinator: **Chiffon** – She assists Lisa Matuga, PA-C with patients and handles surgery scheduling. She has been a part of our team since August of 2014.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant / Lab Technician: **Lynn** – She assists Dr. Carruth and Lisa with procedures and also helps process the tissue in the lab. Lynn joined our team in July of 2015.

Office Manager / Certified Medical Practice Executive/ Certified Professional Coder / Certified Physician Practice 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

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