

Carolina Skin Surgery Center Monthly Newsletter

January

1/1/2017

Edition 35

Would A Consultation Be Beneficial To You?

By: Cynthia

When some people hear the word cancer, they panic. Many questions start to run through their minds - "Is it treatable?" and "What treatments are best?" Most skin cancers, if caught early enough, are treatable. Trying to decide what is the best treatment option for you can be a difficult decision. Many people like to schedule an appointment for consultation and surgery on the actual day of the surgery, but some patients may want to come in for a consultation prior to the surgery. If you have many questions and concerns, then a consultation visit prior to surgery may be a good option for you. We offer consultation appointments for you to come in and speak with the surgeon or our Physician Assistant to determine what options are best for you and to go over the details of the procedure.

The type of skin cancer, where it is located, and how large it is, are factors that determine what treatment options may be appropriate. Health issues unique to you may also play a role in the decision making process. The various treatment options can be explained to you so you can make a well-informed decision regarding which treatment method may be best for you. We will provide you with information and assist you and your family in coming up with the best treatment plan for you. The provider can explain the pros and cons to you at your consultation appointment.

All of the procedures that we perform in our office are performed under local anesthesia. This means that the area is "numbed" with a needle and syringe. You will be awake for the procedure – you are not sedated (put to sleep). Some people feel a little anxious at the thought of being awake during the procedure and would rather be sedated. In knowing your preference ahead of time, we are able to better serve you and meet your needs. There are also times when a patient may have a larger spot that is in a challenging location to repair. In this case we may need to coordinate the repair of the defect with a plastic surgeon. Knowing this in advance of the day of the surgery helps us to better coordinate and plan for your surgery.

Having a consultation before surgery also lets us know what medications you are currently taking and helps us to learn about your current and past medical history. We can then prescribe any medications that you would need to take before surgery (for example: antibiotics). A consultation before surgery also gives you the chance to meet the surgeon and the staff and get to know us a little before your surgery. As with any surgery, big or little, it is better to know what is going to happen and make sure you are comfortable with your decision.

While a consultation at our office prior to your surgery is not always necessary, it may be beneficial for some patients. If you think it would be helpful to you, please let us know and we will arrange for a preoperative surgical consultation with one of our providers.

Announcements for January:

- Monday, January 2nd – the office is closed. Please call the main number (704-295-0000) and follow the prompts to reach the provider on call if you have an emergency.



Our Mission is to:

Cure

Serve

Study

Continuously improve

CAROLINA SKIN SURGERY CENTER

"Treating Skin Cancer; Specializing in You"

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 Kristen Bush, PA-C

Kristen received her Master of Science in Medicine and graduated from the Physician Assistant Program at Wake Forest in 2014. She has a passion for helping patients and we are very happy to have her as a part of our team.

Professional Society Memberships:

- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants

Meet the Team:

Administrative Assistant: **Sandy** - She always has a smile on her face and is willing to help anyone. Sandy has been a part of the team since April of 2010.

Surgery Coordinator / Certified Clinical Medical Assistant / Registered Medical Assistant for Dermatology: **Ashley** – She assists Dr. Carruth procedures and also handles surgery scheduling. Ashley has been a part of the team since May of 2011.

Registered Medical Assistant / Lab Technician: **Jackie** – She assists Dr. Carruth with procedures and also helps process the tissue in the lab for Mohs Surgery. Jackie has been a part of the team since October of 2008.

Certified Surgical Technician: **Cynthia** – She assists Dr. Carruth with procedures and has been a part of the team since September of 2009.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant / Surgery Coordinator: **Chiffon** – She assists Dr. Carruth with procedures and handles surgery scheduling. She has been a part of the team since August of 2014.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant / Lab Technician: **Lynn** – She assists Dr. Carruth with procedures and also helps process the tissue in the lab for Mohs Surgery. Lynn has been a part of the team since July of 2015.

Office Manager: **April** has been a part of the team since August of 2006. Please let her know if you have any suggestions or comments – we encourage feedback and are always willing to learn and improve.

CAROLINA SKIN SURGERY CENTER
2615 E. 7TH ST.

CHARLOTTE, NC 28204

Phone: 704-295-0000

Fax: 704-295-0005