

# Carolina Skin Surgery Center Monthly Newsletter

September

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Edition 31

## **Why Do I Have To Stay In Town For One Week After Surgery?**

Don't be surprised when we are scheduling your surgery appointment if we ask about your travel schedule, particularly your plans for the week after surgery. Although we get to hear about many interesting and amazing vacations patients have planned, the main reason we need to know if you will be traveling is really for your safety.

The first 1-2 days after surgery is when the risk for bleeding can be problematic. Upon leaving the office after surgery, as part of your post-op instructions, we advise you to go directly home and take it easy. Do not schedule any activities for that day. We like patients to stay in town so we can more readily address any complications that may arise such as bleeding or infection.

The onset of infection, if it occurs, is typically about 3 days after surgery. Symptoms can include increased pain, swelling, warmth and drainage. It may be in your best interest to have you return to the office not only for further evaluation, but also for a bacterial culture of the site to determine the cause of the infection.

And what about those stitches on top of your skin that may need to come out? We typically remove the stitches 5 to 7 days after they are placed. Yes, you could probably YouTube a video to see how to take your sutures out... but we don't recommend it. Often, sutures on top of the skin look easy to take out, but can actually be more difficult than you think. Seeing you back at the appropriate time also allows us to ensure you are healing with no complications or concerns.

Hopefully you can see why we say you should limit your travel after your surgery. Obviously, there are exceptions to what we've discussed above. If you have any questions or concerns about events and travel plans you have scheduled around the time of your surgery please let us know and we would be happy to discuss this with you.

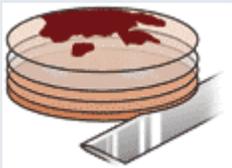


## **The Mohs Procedure Is As Follows:**

1. A local anesthetic is given at the site of the cancer.
2. The visible tumor is removed with a surgical instrument.
3. A layer of tissue is removed with a small margin around the tumor site.

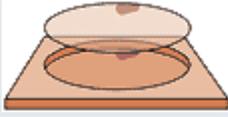


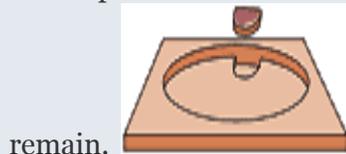
4. A map or drawing is made of the tissue. This is used as a guide to the precise location of any remaining tumor cells.
5. The tissue is taken to the lab area in the office and sliced into very thin layers, which are mounted on microscope slides. These are then stained to help see the tissue better.



6. The entire margin of the tissue is microscopically examined thoroughly to check for evidence of remaining cancer cells.

7. If any cancer is found, the Mohs surgeon returns to the specific area of the tumor site as indicated on

the map  and removes another thin layer of tissue only from the area where cancer cells



remain.

8. The newly removed tissue is examined under the microscope.
9. If microscopic analysis still shows evidence of disease, the process continues layer by layer until the cancer is completely gone.

Because this systematic search reveals the complete “roots” of the skin cancer, Mohs surgery offers the *highest chance of complete removal* of the cancer while sparing normal tissue.

The whole process takes about 2 to 4 hours – sometimes longer depending on how many layers are taken (see #9)

## ***Announcements for September:***

- Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day! The office will be closed, but you can always reach the provider on call for emergencies. Please call the main number (704-295-0000) and follow the prompts.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> is Cynthia’s 7 year CSSC anniversary! Cheers to many more years! ☺
- September 29<sup>th</sup> is National Coffee Day (Our Keurig makes a variety of delicious coffee to suit individual tastes).

## 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.

### 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 the surgery scheduling. If you have had Mohs surgery then you have probably spoken with her! 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 / Certified Medical Practice Executive/ Certified Professional Coder / Certified Physician Practice 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.

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