



# MAGNOLIA DERMATOLOGY

## SKIN SURGERY AND WOUND CARE GUIDE

### WHAT IS SKIN SURGERY?

- Removal of a skin lesion, such as a skin cancer, mole, cyst, or lipoma, by cutting the skin and repairing the area with stitches. This procedure is performed under local anesthesia (numbing shots).
- Your specimen(s) are sent to a pathology lab, *Skin Diagnostics*, for diagnosis confirmation or to see if all of the cancer was removed. They will process and file your insurance for you. You will receive a bill from them if you have an unmet deductible.
- The risks of surgery include: bleeding, bruising, infection, breaking of the stitches and opening of wound, numbness, recurrence or persistence (requiring a second procedure), and scarring. A scar will result from any procedure that removes a sample of skin. The type of scar that forms depends on the way the patient's skin heals. Some skin forms abnormal scars (keloids).

### PREPARING FOR YOUR PROCEDURE

- Notify your doctor if you take any blood thinning medication. You do **NOT** need to stop it, unless directed by your doctor.
- Notify your doctor if you have a pacemaker or defibrillator, allergy to latex or numbing medication, or artificial heart valve or joint.
- Wash the area with soap and water prior to the appointment and avoid wearing make-up or jewelry.
- Eat a light meal prior to your appointment
- You will **NOT** be given any medications which will make you sleepy or drowsy, but may want to bring a driver, especially if you are having a procedure on your head or neck.

### WOUND CARE AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE

- A pressure dressing will be applied and should remain in place for 24-48 hours. Do not get the area wet during this time.
- Once the dressing is removed, gently wash the site with soap and water, or shampoo if on the scalp, twice daily and pat dry.
- Do not let the wound dry out. Cover the site with Vaseline or Aquaphor Healing Ointment and a bandage. An antibiotic ointment (Neosporin) may be used but is not necessary.
- Rarely, the site may bleed after you leave the clinic.
  - Apply direct pressure to the wound for 10-20 minutes if this occurs.
  - If bleeding continues, you should contact our office.
- It is normal for your site to have red edges.
- Signs of infection include: Bright red appearance, swelling, pain to touch, & thick yellow drainage or pus
- Do not swim or perform activities (i.e. sports or exercise) that pull on the stitches.
- If you have pain or discomfort, you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin).
- **You will most likely have stitches that will need to be removed 7-14 days after the surgery.**

**Your results will be available on your portal. If further treatment is needed, you will be contacted by phone. If you have not been contacted within 14 days, please call us.**

**Call our office at 601-910-3004, if you have any questions.**