

**James R. DeBloom, II, M.D., F.A.C.M.S.**



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
SKIN CANCER  
CENTER**

**MOHS  
MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY**

*Training You Trust.  
Experience You Expect.*

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

300 Ashby Park Lane • Greenville, SC 29607  
Phone: 864-288-1154 • Fax: 864-288-2554

**THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY  
TO BE PREPARED FOR SURGERY**

**Appointment:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM

Office: SC Skin Cancer Center  
300 Ashby Park Lane  
Greenville, SC 29607

Doctor: James R. DeBloom, M.D.

**Canceling an Appointment:**

If you must change an appointment, please call us 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE. This courtesy allows us to schedule another patient for crucial surgical care. Please do not fail to show for an appointment. Failing to keep appointments can cause delays for other patients and may affect your ability to be seen by Dr. DeBloom in the future.

# WELCOME TO OUR PRACTICE

We are pleased that you have chosen our office for your surgical care. Our goal is to provide you with the quality care and expertise that you expect and deserve.

This brochure will acquaint you with our practice and give you a better understanding of how our facility works. We take great pride in our staff's training and professional capabilities. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have regarding your medical care, fees, insurance, or other office policies. We are concerned about you and welcome any suggestions that will improve the care that you receive.

This brochure has been developed not to replace our personal communication, but to complement it. We hope this information will answer some of your questions.

We are always happy to listen to any suggestions regarding our office procedures. It is essential that our patients are well informed, relaxed, happy and above all, confident. For more information about skin cancer and it's treatment, please feel free to visit the following web sites:

## **Dr. DeBloom's website:**

[www.southcarolinaskincancercenter.com](http://www.southcarolinaskincancercenter.com)

## **Mohs College website:**

[www.mohscollege.org](http://www.mohscollege.org)

## **Dermatology website:**

[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

For more information about Dr. DeBloom and the Mohs procedure, please watch our video, "Introduction to Mohs surgery" at [www.youtube.com/user/JamesDeBloomMD](http://www.youtube.com/user/JamesDeBloomMD)

## YOUR DOCTOR



James R. DeBloom, II, M.D., a native of Rochester, New York, received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Harvard, Dr. DeBloom was a four-year letter winner as an offensive tackle for the Harvard Crimson football team. He received a master's degree from

the Roswell Park Cancer Institute with an emphasis in oncology and his medical doctorate from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. While completing his internal medicine internship at Rochester General Hospital, Dr. DeBloom was selected by the faculty as the hospital's most outstanding intern physician. He then completed his dermatology residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where he also served as the chief resident of the department. Dr. DeBloom then had the privilege of receiving his fellowship training in Mohs Surgery and facial reconstruction from John Zitelli, M.D., widely considered the premier Mohs surgeon in the country and David Brodland, M.D., the recent past-president of the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

Dr. DeBloom is board certified in Dermatology and is a Fellow with the American Board of Dermatology. He is also an Associate in the American College of Mohs Surgery. This is an organization with membership restricted only to physicians who upon completion of their dermatology residency training have completed at least one additional year of specialty fellowship training dedicated to Mohs Surgery and facial reconstruction. Dr. DeBloom was the first fellowship trained Mohs surgeon to establish a practice in Upstate South Carolina. Additionally, Dr. DeBloom is a Diplomate in the American Board of Dermatology and a Fellow in the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery for whom he has also served as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. DeBloom has authored numerous articles and has lectured on skin cancers and melanomas at local, national and international meetings.

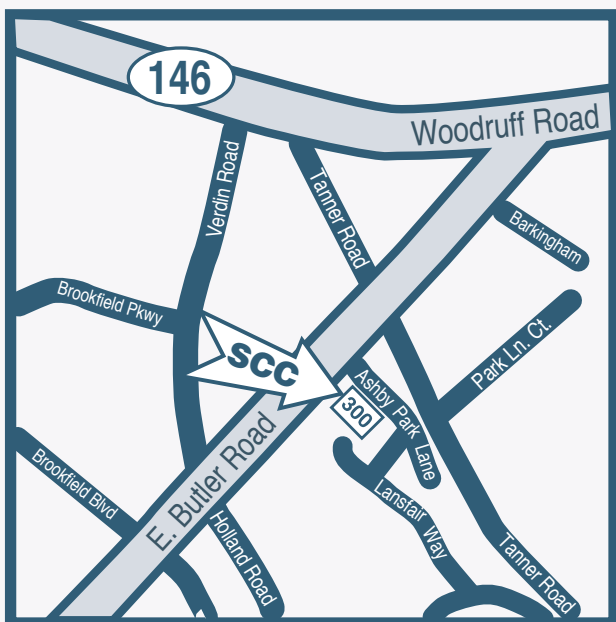
# DIRECTIONS TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SKIN CANCER CENTER

1. FROM DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE- Take I-385S toward Columbia to **Exit 34 Butler Road**. Take a left onto **Butler Road** from the exit. Proceed for 0.7 miles and take a right onto **Ashby Park Lane**. The office is #300 on your right.

2. FROM SPARTANBURG/GAFFNEY/CHARLOTTE- Take I-85S toward Greenville to I-385S. Take I-385S toward Columbia. Get off at **Exit 34 Butler Road**. Take a left onto **Butler Road** from the exit. Proceed for 0.7 miles and take a right onto **Ashby Park Lane**. The office is #300 on your right.

3. FROM CLEMSON/ANDERSON/SENECA/ATLANTA- Take I-85N toward Greenville to I-385S. Take I-385S toward Columbia. Get off at **Exit 34 Butler Road**. Take a left onto **Butler Road** from the exit. Proceed for 0.7 miles and take a right onto **Ashby Park Lane**. The office is #300 on your right.

4. FROM SIMPSONVILLE/NEWBERRY/COLUMBIA- Take I-385N toward Greenville to **Exit 34 Butler Road**. Take a right onto **Butler Road** from the exit. Proceed for 0.6 miles and take a right onto **Ashby Park Lane**. The office is #300 on your right.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SURGERY

## **What is Mohs Surgery?**

Mohs surgery is a highly specialized treatment for the total removal of skin cancer. It is named in honor of Dr. Frederic Mohs, the physician who developed the technique. Mohs Surgery eliminates the guesswork used with all other methods of treating skin cancer. Other methods require the surgeon to estimate how wide or deep the roots of skin cancer have grown. Mohs surgery differs by the use of complete microscopic examination of all tissues removed. This allows the Mohs surgeon to remove only the skin cancer cells and leave the normal skin untouched.

## **What are the advantages of Mohs Surgery?**

### **What are my chances for cure?**

By using detailed mapping techniques and complete microscopic control, the Mohs surgeon can pinpoint areas involved with cancer that are otherwise invisible to the naked eye. Therefore, even the smallest microscopic roots of cancer can be removed. The result is: 1) the removal of as little normal skin as possible, 2) the highest possibility for curing the cancer. Using Mohs Surgery, the percentage of cure is more than 99% for most skin cancers, even when other forms of treatment have failed. Other methods of treatment offer only a 50% chance of success if previous treatments have failed.

### **What happens the day of surgery?**

Your appointment will be scheduled early in the day. Our staff will escort you into a surgical suite where the surgeon will numb the area around the skin cancer. Once it is numb, the visible cancer and a thin layer of tissue will be removed. This tissue is carefully mapped and coded by the surgeon and taken to the adjacent laboratory where the technician will immediately process the microscope slides. You will have a temporary dressing placed over the wound and you will be free to return to the reception area.

The surgical procedure alone takes 10-15 minutes. However, it takes a minimum of 1 1/2 to 2 hours to prepare and microscopically examine the tissues of each layer. Several surgical stages and microscopic examinations may be required, and you will be asked to wait in the patient reception area between stages.

Although there is no way to tell before surgery how many stages will be necessary, most cancers are removed in three stages or less.

We would like to make the time you spend with us as pleasant and comfortable as possible. You may want to bring reading material to occupy your time while waiting for the microscope slides to be processed and examined. You may want to bring a sweater, as the temperature in our office varies. Magazines and beverages will be available in the reception area. If your visit extends through the lunch hour, your companion may leave the office and bring you a snack or lunch from one of the local restaurants or eateries since you are asked not to leave the reception area of our office.

***The most difficult part of the procedure is waiting for the results from the laboratory. Since we do not know in advance how much time is necessary to remove the cancer and repair the wound, we ask that you plan to be in the office the entire day and that you make no other commitments.***

### **What complications may occur?**

Complications after Mohs surgery are rare, but may include a chance of bleeding or infection. For any complications or questions following surgery, please review the written instructions sheet we will provide to you on the day of surgery.

### **Will I be hospitalized?**

No, Mohs surgery is performed in a pleasant out-patient surgical suite and you may return home the same day. Hospital facilities are available if necessary.

### **Will the surgery leave a scar?**

Yes. Any form of treatment will leave a scar. However, because Mohs surgery removes as little normal tissue as possible, scarring is minimized. Immediately after the cancer is removed, we may choose (1) to leave the wound to heal itself, (2) to repair the wound with stitches, or (3) to reconstruct the wound with a skin graft or flap. This decision is based on the safest method that will provide the best cosmetic result.

### **Will I have pain after the surgery?**

Most patients do not complain of pain. If there is any discomfort, Tylenol is all that is usually necessary for relief.

# PREPARING FOR SURGERY

## How do I prepare for Surgery?

### The Morning of Surgery

Please bathe or shower and wash your hair to minimize your risk of surgical site infection.

### Medical History

Upon arrival at our office you will be asked to complete a medical history form. It may be helpful for you to bring a list of medications and illnesses. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment to fill out your medical history form.

### Medications

Continue all medications prescribed by your doctor including blood thinners like Coumadin or aspirin. However, if you are taking aspirin, ibuprofen, or herbal supplements without your doctors orders for a medical condition, please discontinue them 10 days prior to your surgery appointment. **These include Anacin, Bufferin, Excedrin, Alka Seltzer and Percodan, Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Oral Vitamin E & Ginkgo biloba.** You may take Tylenol if needed for pain. Alcohol will also promote bleeding, so avoid alcoholic beverages 48 hours before surgery. Please avoid wearing make-up, perfume, nail polish, and jewelry.

### Antibiotic Coverage:

If you have had joint (knee, hip, etc.) replacement in the past, antibiotic prophylaxis is not indicated for your skin cancer surgery. If you have had a surgical procedure or are awaiting a surgical procedure on your heart valve, please contact our office immediately. We may need to administer additional antibiotics as a precaution for infection.

### Transportation:

It is necessary that you arrange to have a companion drive you to and from the doctor's office because the doctor may give you a mild sedative. You may also be more comfortable with someone to keep you company in the reception area.

### Breakfast

The day of surgery, we suggest you eat your normal breakfast.



# THE MOHS SURGERY PROCESS



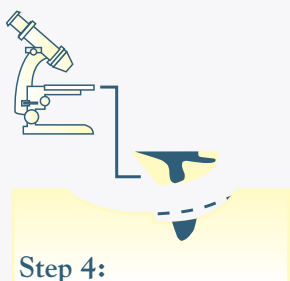
**Step 1:** The roots of a skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.



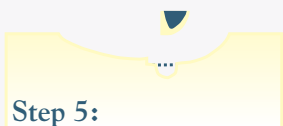
**Step 2:** The visible portion of the tumor is surgically removed.



**Step 3:** A layer of skin is removed and divided into sections. Dr. DeBloom then color codes each of these sections with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of these sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.



**Step 4:** The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.



**Step 5:** If cancer cells are found under the microscope, Dr. DeBloom marks their location onto the “map” and returns to the patient to remove another layer of skin - but only from precisely where the cancer cells remain.

**Step 6:** The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the maximum amount of healthy tissue is kept intact.

# AFTER SURGERY

## Wound care

All wounds will be bandaged after your surgery has been completed. Instructions will be discussed verbally with you and will also be given to you in a written format. All sutured or stitched wounds will require two weeks of a bandage **THAT MUST BE KEPT DRY.**

## Follow up appointments

Usually one or two return visits are all that is needed to examine the healed surgical site or to remove your surgical dressings. Afterwards, you may return to your referring physician for routine check-ups. A follow-up period of four years for the treated cancer is essential. After having one skin cancer, statistics show that you have a higher chance of developing a second skin cancer. You should have your skin checked by your referring dermatologist at least once a year for four years not only to examine the treated skin cancer, but also to check for new skin cancers.

## Sun safety

The best protection from skin cancer is to avoid the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Even if you tan easily, the sun can contribute to skin cancer in two ways. First, the sunlight damages the genes that control cell growth, and second, sunlight damages the body's immune system so that early cancers grow unchecked by normal immune defense. Minimize exposure by:

1. Using any sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 and preferably with UVA/UVB protection when you spend any time in the sun.
2. Avoid sun exposure during mid-day hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
3. Do not stay outdoors unprotected on cloudy days since the ultraviolet light penetrates easily through the clouds.

If you follow this advice it may not be necessary to restrict your outdoor activities or change your lifestyle.

## PATIENT / INSURANCE BILLING

Please be sure to bring your current insurance cards with you to each visit. We will need to keep a copy in your records. You can also check your insurance coverage by calling the phone number on the back of your insurance card to check participation status for Dr. DeBloom and the South Carolina Skin Cancer Center.

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



Tori Pilgrim is a board-certified Physician Assistant (PA-C) who joined The South Carolina Skin Cancer Center in 2020. She grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, where she still resides. She completed her undergraduate studies at Clemson University with a degree in Language and International Health with an emphasis in Spanish. She continued her education and training at the University of Lynchburg, in Virginia, where she received her Master of Physician Assistant Medicine degree. Before pursuing her masters, she spent a year working as a medical assistant for Dr. DeBloom and it was during this time that she found her passion in Mohs surgery. Ms. Pilgrim performs many duties at the South Carolina Skin Cancer Center including patient education, skin checks, surgical follow ups, suturing and cryosurgery.

When Ms. Pilgrim is not working, she enjoys training for marathons and spending time with her Golden Retriever.

