

Surgery and scar information

Surgery to be performed

Insignificant, serious, or life threatening reactions may occur to any medicine.

Anaesthesia will be performed using:

- Lignocaine with/without adrenaline.
- Bupivacaine (Macaine) may also be used.
- Antibiotics may be prescribed post-operatively (usually clindamycin or amoxicillin with clavulanic acid).
- Analgesics may be prescribed post-operatively.

Please inform your doctor on the day of surgery about any prior reactions to any of these medications, or any other relevant allergies.

- Infection or bleeding can occur after surgery.
- Sometimes more than one surgical procedure on different days are necessary to completely clear a large lesion, a lesion in a difficult area, or to obtain the best possible repair of the surgical wound and the best possible cosmetic result.
- In general Dr. du Plessis co-operates with a specialist reconstructive surgeon who will close the defect in the afternoon following the successful removal of the skin cancer with Mohs micrographic Surgery.

Post-surgery

There will be a need for a post-operative follow-up for suture removal and/or wound evaluation. It is best to remain in the local area (but not essential) for 10-14 days post-op. Let the doctor know if you cannot do this. Please phone the rooms following the surgery to confirm the suture removal follow-up appointment.

Where the reconstruction was performed by the reconstructive surgeon, make these arrangements with the nursing sister assisting the reconstructive surgeons, or directly with his/her rooms.

The wound takes 25 days to become strong. You may need to modify your work and/or exercise schedule to prevent your wound from opening. For the first few days after the surgery there will be swelling and possibly some bruising, which will subside within a few days.

Most patients will receive a prescription for pain medication and/or an antibiotic upon discharge. If you do not receive one, please check with the ward sister/doctor.



SKINMATTERS

Mohs and Reconstruction Unit

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Scar Information

- All humans heal by scar formation.
- Scar tissue is red for 3-6 months or longer, then usually fades to white. Sunlight exposure may cause a scar to darken. Blood vessels (telangiectasia) can form around a surgical site.
- The appearance of a surgery scar usually continues to improve for 6-12 months as the scar "matures". The tissues around the surgical site often remains swollen for one month or longer.
- Scars overlying the active muscle areas tend to widen (stretch) with time. This cannot always be prevented. Scars can heal thick (keloid or hypertrophic scar) or can heal thin (atrophic scar). How they heal depends in part upon the location on the body and the healing process of the patient.
- The final appearance of a scar depends upon many factors including the SIZE, DEPTH, and LOCATION of your cancer. Chances for a good result can be estimated for a given procedure, but can NEVER BE GUARANTEED.
- If a surgical site is injured or becomes infected before healing is complete, the scar may gape open, the wound may bleed, and the scar may become more obvious.
- A change of feeling (sensation) often occurs around a scar. This usually recovers but can take up to 1-2 years.
- In some areas of the body there is a risk of motor nerve damage.

Should there be any uncertainty, kindly ask any of the doctors, clinical nursing sister or receptionists for assistance, phone the practice at 012 346 4202, email at mohs@skinmatters.co.za or info@skinmatters.co.za or in case of an emergency after hours please phone the appropriate mobile numbers below.

For your convenience and information kindly find below the contact details of the clinical co-ordinator (Nursing Sister) and specialists in the Skinmatters Mohs Micrographic and Reconstruction Surgery Unit:

NURSING SISTER		
Sr Annecke Swart	083 646 6316	
MOHS SURGERY		
Dr Pieter du Plessis	012 346 4202 / 083 630 4241	pieter@skinmatters.co.za
Dr Nivana Ramlachan	012 807 9858 / 083 427 8072	nivanaramlachan1@gmail.com
Dr Tshepo Mokwena	012 346 4202 / 071 150 7887	tshepo@skinmatters.co.za
RECONSTRUCTIVE SPECIALISTS		
Dr Japie de Wet	012 346 6688 / 084 620 8462	docdewet@gmail.com
Dr Stefan Rawlins	012 548 0431 / 082 457 3766	admin@rawlins.co.za
Dr Nicolette Landman	012 652 9546 / 083 243 4929	admin@drnicolettelandman.co.za
Dr Frits Spruyt	012 347 1497 / 083 400 0512	angela@drfritsspruyt.com
Dr Nils Irsigler	012 942 9368 / 081 798 3975	ngirsigler@gmail.co.za



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