

# CALGARY SKIN CANCER CENTRE

#316 – 3320 17<sup>TH</sup> AVE SW

CALGARY, AB T3E 0B4

P: (403) 700-0110 F: (403) 700-0271

# MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

## Information Package

JENNIFER P. GUILLEMAUD MD MHSc. FRCSC FPRS  
HEAD & NECK SURGERY – FACIAL PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON  
MOHS CUTANEOUS ONCOLOGIC SURGEON

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## A GUIDE TO MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

### **Overview**

Mohs Micrographic surgery is a precise surgical technique used to treat skin cancer. During Mohs surgery, thin layers of cancer-containing skin are progressively removed and examined until only cancer-free tissue remains.

The primary goal of Mohs surgery is to remove all of the skin cancer while minimizing unnecessary removal of the surrounding healthy tissue. By preserving as much healthy tissue as possible, we are able to reduce scarring and optimize reconstruction and appearance. Mohs surgery is done on an outpatient basis using a local anesthetic.

Mohs surgery is a significant improvement to standard surgery (wide local excision). Removal by standard wide excision does not allow for evaluation of 100% of the margins, and does not provide confirmation of complete cancer removal for 2 or more weeks after lab analysis. For these reasons, Mohs surgery is the gold standard of care, as it provides the highest cure rates possible – approximately 99% of skin cancers are cured with Mohs surgery.

### **Why It's Done**

Mohs surgery is used to treat the most common skin cancers: basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, as well as other more rare skin cancers. Mohs surgery is especially useful for skin cancers that:

- Have a high risk of recurrence or that failed previous treatment.

- Are located in cosmetically and functionally important areas, such as on the face, neck, hands, feet and genitals
- Are large or aggressive

### **On the Day of Your Surgery**

You will arrive at your scheduled appointment time for check-in, and will be greeted by our surgical coordinator and asked to review the consent form. You will also be asked to provide the contact information for your ride. Then you'll be taken back to our surgical waiting area where you will be provided with coffee, water and tea. One of our nurses will bring you into a surgical suite where you will be prepped for your surgery. This will include a discussion of your diagnosis and the planned treatment, and details of the surgery and expected outcomes. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions at this time. After you consent to surgery, local anesthetic will be injected so that you are comfortable during the procedure. The first layer will be taken and you will be sent back to the surgical waiting area. While you wait, Dr. Guillemaud will analyze the tissue that she removed and determine whether or not you will need to have another layer of skin removed. This takes approximately 60 minutes each time; most patients require an average of 2-3 layers of excision. Once all of the cancer has been removed, Dr. Guillemaud will then complete the repair (reconstruction) of your surgical defect. This takes approximately one (1) hour. You can expect to be at Calgary Skin Cancer Centre for approximately 4 – 6 hours on the date of your surgery.

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## DR. JENNIFER GUILLEMAUD FELLOWSHIP TRAINED MOHS SURGEON

A native Calgarian, Dr. Guillemaud completed her medical training at the University of Alberta. She then completed additional training in the highly coveted surgical subspecialty Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery program at the University of Toronto. During this comprehensive five-year training program she worked with worldwide experts in the fields of Head and Neck Oncology, Facial Reconstruction, Facial Plastic Surgery, and Nasal/Sinus surgery.



It was during this time she realized her true passion: Skin Cancer and Facial Reconstructive surgery. She went on to complete a Mohs Micrographic Surgery fellowship at the University of Calgary – one of only 3 accredited programs in Canada that provides extensive training in the area of Skin Cancer, Cutaneous Pathology, and complex Cosmetic and Reconstructive surgery of the face. The most common cosmetic procedure she performs is Blepharoplasty, which is Surgical Rejuvenation of the upper eyelids by removing excess skin and/or fatty tissue. The goal of blepharoplasty surgery is to correct changes caused by aging, smoking, sun damage and genetic factors.

Dr. Guillemaud is a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada board-certified Head and Neck Surgeon with advanced training in skin cancer and facial reconstruction. Dr. Guillemaud has multiple peer-reviewed research articles in many areas of Head and Neck Surgery, with several ongoing studies. She has also completed her Masters of Health Sciences degree in Bioethics at Canada's only World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Bioethics, in Toronto, Ontario. With these credentials, she serves as the only surgeon for the province-wide Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta – Clinical Trials Committee.

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## HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SURGERY

### **Please review and follow ALL of these instructions:**

1. Ensure that you have completed the Health History form and sent in a photo of your lesion(s) at least one (1) week prior to the date of your surgery. If you require assistance with this, please call our office at (403) 700-0110 or send an email to vicky@calgaryskincancer.com. **Please note that you are welcome to walk in anytime during our business hours, Monday – Friday between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM and we will take your photo for you and you can fill out the Health History form at reception.**
2. **Please arrange for a ride to and from your surgery.** The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's guidelines for Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities state that patients are NOT to drive themselves to and from any surgical procedure.
3. We strongly encourage you to eat breakfast on the morning of your surgery and to bring snacks/lunch with you, unless you have been instructed otherwise.
4. Wear clean, comfortable, loose-fitting, low-linting clothing that is washable; please avoid wearing white if you can. Ensure that you wear layers that can be added or removed should you feel too warm/too cold.
5. **Plan to be at Calgary Skin Cancer Centre for approximately 4 – 6 hours when you are here for your surgery.** We recommend bringing books/magazines, a laptop/tablet, crossword puzzles, etc. to help pass the time.
6. Do not smoke or use tobacco for one (1) day prior to your surgery and for three (3) days after surgery.
7. You can take all of your regular medications that are prescribed to you. The only medication that we ask you to stop is Aspirin (including Baby Aspirin); if you are taking Aspirin or Baby Aspirin on a daily basis, please stop taking it for five (5) days prior to your surgery. If you are on blood-thinners (such as Warfarin, Coumadin, Plavix, Pradaxa and Xarelto), you can continue taking them as directed by your regular doctor.
8. If you are on oxygen therapy, please bring enough supply for a minimum of eight (8) hours.
9. If there has been any change in your medical status, medications, or if you have been hospitalized within the week prior to your surgery, please let us know as soon as possible.
10. Please do not leave Calgary Skin Cancer Centre until you have been discharged by Dr. Guillemaud and/or one of our nurses.
11. We require a minimum for 48 hours' notice if you wish to cancel or reschedule your surgery.

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I don't have a visible spot/lesion anymore after the biopsy, do I still need to come for surgery?

A: Yes, the reason your doctor referred you to us for surgery is because there is still cancerous tissue remaining beneath the skin in the biopsy site/scar, even if you can't see it.

Q: Why do I need to send a picture of my lesion/biopsy site?

A: Dr. Guillemaud closely reviews each surgical case that is scheduled; a photo of the biopsy site helps us to plan each surgical day adequately and to ensure that you have the best possible cosmetic and functional outcome for your reconstruction afterward.

Q: Can I drive myself?

A: No. Our goal is your safety, so we adhere to the guidelines set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta for Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities, which states that patients are NOT to drive themselves to and from any surgical procedure. **Please arrange for a ride to and from surgery and have your ride's contact information available for when you are checking in on the morning of your surgery.**

Q: Can I have a family member or friend stay with me during surgery?

A: Unless there is a medically necessary reason for someone to stay with you, such as cognitive/mobility/vision/hearing impairment, you are not allowed to have anyone accompany you during your surgery. **If you require someone to stay with you for medical assistance, please confirm this with our surgical coordinator before the date of your surgery.** We thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Q: How long does the procedure take?

A: You will be at Calgary Skin Cancer Centre for approximately 4 – 6 hours.

Q: What do I do after surgery?

A: Specific aftercare instructions will be provided to you when you are discharged from our facility. Plan to have approximately three (3) days of downtime afterwards, during which we strongly advise to refrain from any overly strenuous or highly physical activity.

Q: Do you have WiFi?

A: Yes! Please ask any of our staff members for the guest password.

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## MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY CONSENT

**\*This is an exact copy of the consent form that you will be asked to sign on the morning of your surgery. You do NOT need to sign or return this document.**

I hereby authorize Dr. Jennifer P. Guillemaud MD, MHSc, FRCSC, FPRS to perform MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY (microscopically controlled excision) for the following:

I have been informed by Dr. Jennifer P. Guillemaud that no treatment can be done unless I provide a written consent.

I agree to and understand the following:

1. The nature and purpose of MOHS Micrographic Surgery is to remove cutaneous malignancy (skin cancer) by examining the removed tissue and the margins underneath a microscope.
2. The possible consequences of the proposed surgery may include disfigurement or unpleasant scar formation.
3. Possible treatments, such as topical or radiation therapy, or no treatment at all may be offered as an alternative to surgery.
4. After the cancerous tissue has been removed, there will be a surgical defect, of which the size is unpredictable and related to the local extension of the cancer that may not be visible upon initial clinical examination.
5. I am aware that there are possible risks associated with surgery, such as a nerve or artery being damaged, a reaction to the anesthetic, blood loss, or cardiac arrest. I am also aware that the practices of medicine and surgery are not exact and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me concerning the results of the treatment.
6. I understand that during the course of the procedure, unforeseen circumstances or conditions may become apparent that would require an extension of the original procedure or a different procedure from that described above. It may be required that surgical collaboration with other specialties may become necessary during surgery. Therefore, I authorize Dr. Jennifer P. Guillemaud to perform or arrange for such procedures as she deems necessary and desirable in using her professional judgement.
7. I impose no specific limitations or prohibitions on Dr. Jennifer P. Guillemaud regarding this procedure.
8. I consent to photographs being taken during surgery for educational and/or scientific purposes as long as my identity is not revealed. For the purpose of continuing and advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of authorized observers to the surgical suite, as well as the appropriate review of my medical documents.
9. I consent to my medical chart being assessed for the purposes of research or quality control measures and understand that no identifying or personal information will be collected.

I certify that I have read the above authorization, that the explanations offered were made to my satisfaction, and that I fully understand such explanations and the above authorization.

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## INFORMATION FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CAREGIVERS

Family members and/or friends **cannot** stay for your surgery unless it is medically necessary, and it has been pre-arranged with our surgical coordinator. Should you require a caregiver for assistance with toileting, getting in and out of the surgical chair, if you suffer from cognitive, visual, or hearing impairment or if English is not your first language and you require a translator, please let our surgical coordinator know before the date of your surgery. In these instances, we are able to accommodate one (1) person to stay with you. All other family members and friends are asked to return once you have been discharged.

### **Nearby places for family and friends to go during your surgery:**

#### **Sauce Italian Kitchen & Market**

3326 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SW (main floor of the building we are located in)

Calgary, AB T3E 0B4

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Thursday, 7:15 AM – 9:00 PM

Friday, 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM

#### **Starbucks (in Westbrook Mall)**

1200 37<sup>th</sup> Street SW #14

Calgary, AB T3C 1S2

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Friday, 5:30 AM – 9:00 PM

#### **Tim Horton's**

3803 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Calgary, AB T3E 0C3

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM

#### **Signal Hill Shopping Centre**

5715 Signal Hill Centre SW

Calgary, AB T3H 3P8

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

#### **Westhills Towne Centre**

250 Stewart Green SW

Calgary, AB T3H 3C8

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

#### **Westbrook Mall**

1200 37<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Calgary, AB T3C 1S2

#### Hours of Operation During the Week:

Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM