



## PATIENT INFORMATION ON TWO STAGE REPAIRS

Following Mohs surgery, our goal is to restore each patient's function and appearance to the highest degree possible. In order to accomplish this goal and because of the relative complexity of the reconstructive work required, the repair of your Mohs surgery site will involve at least two separate surgeries. Although this staged reconstruction means more effort upfront, the end result will be superior to a simple repair. Additional procedures may be required in some cases. All surgeries will be done in the office under local anesthesia. It is very rare for anyone to need to be admitted to the hospital. You will need to plan on making several office visits to the clinic, wearing a bulky bandage for at least two weeks or more, and limiting activities. The following includes general information and an approximate timeline for these procedures.

### **Week 1**

The first stage of the repair is what was done today, following your Mohs surgery to remove your skin cancer. You now have a piece of skin that was taken from your cheek or forehead, folded over to cover the surgical site and stitched in place. The dressing that has been applied will remain in place for approximately one week. During this time you will need to keep the bandage dry. It is not uncommon for some mild bleeding to occur during this initial period. Your activities will need to be limited and it may be necessary for you to remain home from work. Please let the physicians or the nurse know if your work involves lifting more than five pounds or is otherwise physically demanding. You cannot remove the bandages unless instructed to do so by the physician or the nurses.

### **Week 2**

In six to seven days, you will return for removal of the stitches placed the day of surgery. The site will again be bandaged with a dressing that will remain in place for another week. You will need to keep this dressing dry.

### **Week 3**

At this point you can start daily dressing changes. Showering and shampooing are allowed at this point.

### **Week 4**

You will return for your second surgery with the doctor to remove the folded skin and do the stitching to complete the repair. A dressing will be applied, however in 24 hours you can remove the dressing and begin daily wound care. Written daily instructions will be given to you. An appointment will be scheduled 5-7 days for the sutures to be removed. Following your suture removal a return appointment will be scheduled in four to 12 weeks to evaluate your progress.

This is a very involved process and it is not unusual for you to have some questions or concerns along the way. Please feel free to call our office.

**\*In Case of Emergency\* Please call the office at 781-431-7733**