SKIN CANCER BULLETIN

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The Winningest Coach Chooses the Winningest Approach to Skin Cancer

Mater Dei High School Basketball Coach Battles Skin Cancer



Gary McKnight is the head basketball coach at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana. At his time there he has become the winningest high school basketball coach in California history.

Coach McKnight has led Mater Dei to more than 1250 victories, including a National Championship and 11 California State Titles. He has coached nine players who have gone on to play in the NBA.

More recently, he has faced a different battle. "At a regular checkup, my doctor saw a spot on my face and said, we've got to get you to the best, and referred me to the SCARS Center. I went in there and they said it required Mohs surgery. Two Mohs surgeries and big reconstructions on my face."

McKnight had squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) on his cheek, neck and ear.

Dr. Adam Aronson and **Dr. Matthew Goodman** performed the Mohs surgery, followed by **Dr. Simon Madorsky** reconstructing the defects. "They all took good care of me. There is no guesswork. They get you in right on time, they explain what they need to do. I went in the morning and I walked out in the afternoon, cancer free and reconstructed."

"Every day is a good day. I get up very thankful and feel very fortunate."

"I had four skin cancers—the first two didn't require plastic surgery, the last two did. It was major surgery. Dr. Madorsky was really caring and I've still got my good looks."

At first, his students were worried about him, but his current students don't even know it happened because he healed so well.

Coach McKnight is now an advocate for skin health and getting regular skin checks. "I really encourage people to go and get checked and stay on top of it. Especially here in Southern California where the sun is beating down. Probably being a basketball coach instead of a baseball coach saved my life, because I wasn't out in the sun all the time.

He is in charge of 86 young men and consistently reminds them about protecting their skin.

"I talk to the kids all the time about wearing sunscreen when they go to the beach and surf. I say 'put it on your ears, your nose, your forehead. Wear a baseball cap. You all know what happened to me."



SCAN FOR VIDEO OF THE FULL STORY

Revolutionary Alternative to General Anesthesia is a Huge Breakthrough for Skin Cancer Patients



Anesthesia anxiety can be a huge barrier for patients when it comes to surgery. It is one thing to forego cosmetic procedures, but what about patients with skin cancer? Often these are older patients who not only fear general anesthesia, but also have other health issues. How do we proceed when the surgical procedure is a necessary part of a skin cancer journey?

Our patients now have the option for an alternative to general anesthesia known as **Gentle Sleep Anesthesia**. Instead of deep anesthesia, Gentle Sleep Anesthesia induces stage 2 sleep, and when used in combination with other medications, it achieves a comfortable state for patients. We are now using it routinely at our on-site surgery center.

During Gentle Sleep Anesthesia, patients may cough, reposition themselves, and breathe without assistance. This is a more normal state for patients than deep sedation or general anesthesia.

This is especially revolutionary for our older patients and those with certain health conditions. When it comes to cosmetic or reconstructive surgery, some of these patients are not good candidates for general anesthesia. This is often a barrier for them to have these procedures. With Gentle Sleep Anesthesia, this barrier disappears.

"It has been a real game changer for our practice," says Dr. Simon Madorsky. "Gentle Sleep Anesthesia is so well tolerated by patients. I have had patients in their 90s handle it well."



We are proud to be one of the first outpatient surgery centers in Orange County to offer this groundbreaking application, ensuring a worry-free surgical experience for our patients.

IN THE NEWS

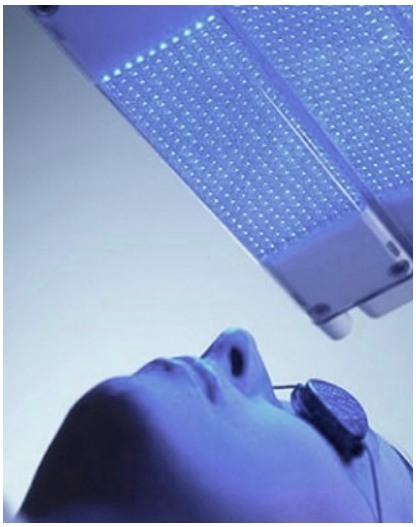
The Deadliest Form of Skin Cancer is not Melanoma

If you mention skin cancer, most people think of melanoma as the deadliest.

Not true. New research has revealed that non-melanoma skin cancer is causing a greater number of global deaths than melanoma, the more serious form of skin cancer.

This study was presented at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology (EADV) Congress 2023.

Light to Treat Skin Cancer? Yes, it's Called Photodynamic Therapy



Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) is a non surgical treatment used most frequently to eliminate Actinic Keratosis, a pre-cancerous condition of the skin.

During PDT, a photo sensitizing medication is applied to the skin for 24 hours. The patient returns to the office the following day, and is placed in direct contact with a BLU-U Light Illuminator for about 15 minutes.

The combination of light and the photo sensitizing medication creates a negative reaction in the precancerous cancer cells. The cells eventually die off, leaving healthy skin below.

PDT side effects are minimal. Patients may experience stinging, tingling, or warm sensation during their treatment, and may note a burning or stinging sensation for 24 hours after treatment. The procedure costs less than surgery and is covered by most insurance.

A Groundbreaking Approach to Early Melanoma Detection

Nevisense allows for non-surgical biopsy

The SCARS Center is the first location in the Western U.S. to offer a groundbreaking diagnostic tool for patients. Nevisense is a non-invasive and highly accurate device for early detection of potential melanomas without the need for skin biopsies.

Suspicious moles, or nevi, often require a surgical biopsy to rule out a melanoma. Traditionally, detection of melanoma relies on visual examination, checking moles for irregularities. Visual inspection alone may not be sufficient for identifying subtle changes in moles. When visual irregularity is found, a surgical biopsy is performed. But most surgical biopsies find a benign mole and not a melanoma. So most biopsies of suspicious nevi are not needed in hindsight.



ADVANTAGES OF NEVISENSE

- Non-Surgical Biopsies
- Quick and Painless
- Early Cancer Detection



Nevisense bridges that gap between a simple visual inspection and a surgical biopsy. The device allows for quick evaluation of multiple nevi or moles in a single office visit.

FDA-approved Nevisense works by measuring the electrical impedance of the skin at different frequencies. The device sends a painless, low-frequency electrical signal into the skin, and the resulting impedance data is analyzed by an AI algorithm. The impedance patterns produced by melanomas are different from those of benign moles.

Schedule a skin check at the SCARS Center to see if you are a candidate for this groundbreaking diagnostic tool.

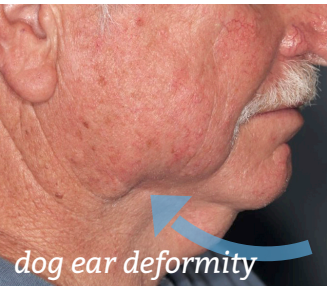
Why is Plastic Surgery Part of a Skin Cancer Journey?

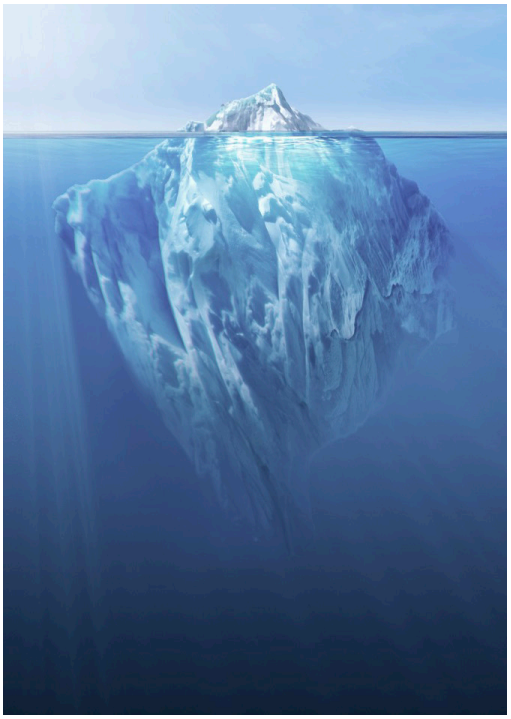
What you see on the surface may be just the tip of the iceberg

Skin cancers most commonly present as a small spot. So why would plastic surgery be required?

The actual cancer, and the defect created by removing the cancer, can be larger and deeper than the visible spot on the skin. We call that the Iceberg Effect. Closure of defects, even small ones, in critical locations of the face can cause distortion and deformity.

How is plastic surgery different from simpler closure after cancer removal? Simple suture closure can create skin buckling or depression, also called dog ear deformity. Simple closure can also use skin grafts to cover the defects, sometimes resulting in a poor color and texture match that looks like a patch. Plastic surgical techniques use skin rearrangement, or flaps, to minimize these deformities. Plastic surgery can also be performed in a surgical suite that allows for enhanced visualization and precision techniques. Suction and advanced cautery devices provide the surgeon a bloodless field with greater tissue detail. It is like operating with a high definition camera instead of foggy glasses.





SCARS CENTER | SKIN CANCER AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY CENTER

APPEARANCE CENTER
plastic surgery, facial rejuvenation, injectables

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★★★★★

"My experience at the SCARS Center has been wonderful from the moment I walked in."

★★★★★

"What a remarkable medical team!"

THE ONLY CENTER OF ITS KIND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Matthew Goodman, MD



Alexander Miller, MD



Jonathan Baron, MD



Adam Aronson, MD



Ronald Barr, MD

Dermatology & Mohs Surgery

We perform more than 800 Mohs procedures and reconstructions annually. The large number of patients we see and the experience of our surgeons and staff offer a rare degree of skill and expertise for even the most complex cases.



Simon Madorsky, MD



Justin Karlin, MD



Alyssa Flanders, PA-C

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

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