



Dr. James Lowe – Plastic Surgery

EVALUATION OF SKIN LESION(S)

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely.

INTRODUCTION

Skin cancer detection, treatment, and prevention are team efforts that involve the combined efforts of you and your doctors. Skin cancer prevention is very important. The best way to prevent skin cancer is to wear appropriate skin cover and sunscreen, particularly in the summer months. Indoor tanning facilities should be avoided.

If there is a lesion or growth that you or one of your other doctors have concern about, please point it out to Dr Lowe. In addition, if you have a mole which has grown or changed in color, it should be pointed out as well. Any growth on the skin that itches or has been bleeding should be examined.

Your plastic surgeon may give you an opinion about a skin lesion but without a biopsy it is only an estimate. It is important to note that no physician can ever be absolutely sure that any skin lesion is non-cancerous without removing it. Although uncommon, even a skin biopsy can be inaccurate at times. Therefore, it is important that you also participate in the care of your skin by informing your physician of areas of concern or change.

Skin cancer screening is a tool that a dermatologist may recommend to help detect skin cancer on your body. Lesions that are unusual or appear to be cancerous will be pointed out, and may be biopsied. Whenever a lesion is biopsied, it is sent to a pathologist to be examined. Lesions which appear to be benign (non-cancerous) will also be pointed out to you by your plastic surgeon or dermatologist.

The frequency of your recommended skin cancer screenings is determined by your history. It is recommended that persons who have had a skin cancer in the past be screened regularly. People with a family history of some types of skin cancer should be examined as well. In order to have a skin cancer screening, it is important that you disrobe and wear a gown. Skin cancer screening appointments must be made in advance so that the proper amount of time is available.

WHAT IS A BIOPSY?

When a lesion is biopsied, it is only sampled. A biopsy is done so that a diagnosis can be made. This means that if the growth is diagnosed as a skin cancer, more work will need to be done to ensure that it has been properly treated. This may involve a second surgery either by your dermatologist, a Mohs surgeon (a subspecialty of dermatology), or a plastic surgeon. The decision is based on what type of cancer you have and where it is located on your body. In some cases, the cancer may also be treated with a chemotherapy cream or radiation.

WHAT IS LIQUID NITROGEN?

Liquid nitrogen is a very cold liquid which dermatologists use to treat pre-cancerous lesions. The nitrogen will destroy the pre-cancerous cells and prevent them from turning into a skin cancer. When this technique is used, the treated area is expected to blister, then scab, then heal. The healing process generally takes a week, but can take as long as 2-3 weeks. If a lesion is treated with liquid nitrogen and it

does not fully heal, or if it comes back, it is important that you let your doctor know.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Most health insurance plans cover both skin cancer screening and treatment.

DISCLAIMER

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information. This informed consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, informed consent documents should not be considered all inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your physician may provide you with additional or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and the state of medical knowledge.

Informed-consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent below.

CONSENT FOR EVALUATION OF A SKIN LESION

1. I hereby authorize Dr Julie Lowe to evaluated and treat my skin lesion(s).
2. I have received the following information sheet: EVALUATION OF SKIN LESION(S)
3. I understand that if I do not disrobe, a complete skin cancer screening cannot be performed.

Patient or Person Authorized To Sign for Patient.

Date

Witness