# Dr. Reichel is the Director of Pacific Dermatology & Cosmetic Center

Dr. Reichel is a board certified dermatologist with advanced fellowship training in Mohs Micrographic skin cancer surgery, liposuction, facial rejuvenation, BOTOX®, tissue fillers and lasers. Dr Reichel is also fully trained in leg vein treatment.



Dr. Reichel attended the University of Colorado for both her undergraduate degree and her Doctorate of Medicine. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Molecular & Developmental Biology in 1993 and completed medical school in 1997. She then underwent residency training in Dermatology at the University of Washington followed by a postgraduate fellowship in Mohs micrographic skin cancer surgery and cosmetic surgery.

She is currently a faculty member of dermatologic surgery at the University of Washington, and continues to teach residents and perform surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Dr. Reichel is active on the national level and is a regular speaker at skin surgery meetings.

Dr. Reichel is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Society of Dermatologic Surgeons, The American College of Mohs Surgeons, the American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery and the local and state medical associations.

## **DIRECTIONS**

## From The North

- Take I-5 South
- Exit at Northgate Way (Exit 173)
- Take Northgate Way westbound ramp
- Turn right at Northgate Way
- Turn right into parking garage just past Meridian Ave. N.

## From The South

- Take I-5 North
- Exit at Northgate Way (Exit 173)
- Turn left on 1st Avenue N.
- Turn left on Northgate Way
- Turn right into parking garage just past Meridian Ave. N.

## Free parking is located under the building



Pacific Dermatology & Cosmetic Center

11011 MERIDIAN AVENUE N.
SUITE 102
SEATTLE, WA 98133
(206) 859-5777 (888) 547-1177
WWW.PACIFICDERMCENTER.COM

# FOR SKIN CANCER



Mohs Micrographic Surgery

Dr. Jennifer Reichel



## **Mohs Micrographic Surgery**

Mohs micrographic surgery is state-of-the-art treatment for skin cancer. It relies on the precision and accuracy of the dermatologic surgeon. A Mohs surgeon also acts as the pathologist using skills to trace and ensure removal of skin cancer, down to its roots.

Mohs micrographic surgery:

- offers the highest cure rate (up to 99%);
- has the lowest rate of cancer recurrence; and
- minimizes scarring.

Mohs micrographic surgery has proven to be the most effective skin cancer treatment by combining the surgical removal of cancer with the immediate microscopic examination of the tumor and underlying diseased tissue. This process allows the surgeon to see beyond the visible disease and precisely identify and remove the entire tumor...and nothing but the tumor.

### In Mohs surgery, the skin cancer is removed in "layers".

After local anesthesia, Dr. Reichel excises all of the visible tumor and an additional very thin layer of surrounding normal skin. She will then create a "map" or drawing of the removed tissue to use as a guide to the precise location of any remaining cancer cells.

The tissue is then processed by a skilled pathology technician. The doctor examines the tissue under the microscope to see if any tumor "roots" are still present. This entire process is called a "layer", and takes about one hour to do.

If any of the sections still contain cancer roots (cells), the Mohs surgeon:

- 1. returns to the specific area of the tumor site as indicated by the map;
- removes another thin "layer" of tissue only from the specific area within each section where cancer cells were detected; and
- 3. microscopically examines the newly removed tissue for additional cancer cells.

If microscopic analysis still shows evidence of disease, the process continues "layer-by-layer" until the cancer is completely gone.

Once the removed tissue shows no sign of disease, the removal process stops – preserving or "saving" healthy, normal tissue. This technique ensures that all the diseased tissue is removed, minimizing the cosmetic impact.

In most cases, after the cancer is gone, Dr. Reichel moves to "plastic-surgery" mode and the defect, or "hole" that is created is repaired with either sutures, or a skin graft. Dr. Reichel and her staff will discuss this with the patient before reconstruction is done.

## **Mohs Consultation**

The preoperative consultation with Dr. Reichel is important. A consultation will allow evaluation of the cancer and an assessment of your general health. Any medical conditions should be disclosed and discussed with Dr. Reichel and her nursing staff. Any questions you have will be answered and discussed in detail.

## To obtain a consultation, please call 206-859-5777



### Step 1

The roots of the skin cancer may extend beyond the visible portion of the tumor. If these roots are not removed, the cancer will recur.

#### Step 2

The visible portion of the tumor is surgically removed.

#### Step 3

A layer of skin is then removed and divided into sections. The Mohs surgeon color codes each section with dyes and makes reference marks on the skin to show the source of the sections. A map of the surgical site is then drawn.

#### Step 4

The undersurface and edges of each section are microscopically examined for evidence of remaining cancer.

#### Step 5

If cancer cells are found under the microscope, the surgeon marks their location onto the "map" and returns to the patient to remove another layer of skin, precisely where the cancer cells remain.

The removal process stops when there is no longer any evidence of cancer remaining in the surgical site. Because Mohs Surgery removes only tissue containing cancer, it ensures that the healthy tissue is kept intact.

## **Pre - Operative Instructions**

Avoid non-prescribed anti-inflammatory containing products for two weeks prior to surgery. This includes Aspirin, Ibuprofen & Aleve. Also stop taking Vitamin E and Ginko Biloba.

If you take Coumadin, Plavix, aspirin or another blood thinner, we might contact your primary care physician to determine whether you may stop the medicine before surgery. We will contact you with further directions, so please **do not stop these medications on your own**.

You should avoid alcohol for 24 hours prior to surgery.

On the morning of surgery:

- Eat a light breakfast. Bring snacks or lunch, as, on occasion, Mohs surgery can take several hours.
- Take your daily medications (unless otherwise directed by us).
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing that can be removed by unbuttoning rather than having to be pulled over the head. This will reduce irritation to the dressing site.
- If surgery involves your face, do not wear any cosmetics/makeup.
- Shower and shampoo before surgery, as your wound and initial dressing site need to remain dry for approximately 24 hours after surgery.
- Plan to take it easy for the first pre— and postoperative weeks and do not travel out of town.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled surgery time.

Dr Reichel and her staff look forward to taking great care of you. Call with any questions (206) 859-5777

Surgery	Appoin <sup>1</sup>	tment
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Time:	
Date:	

