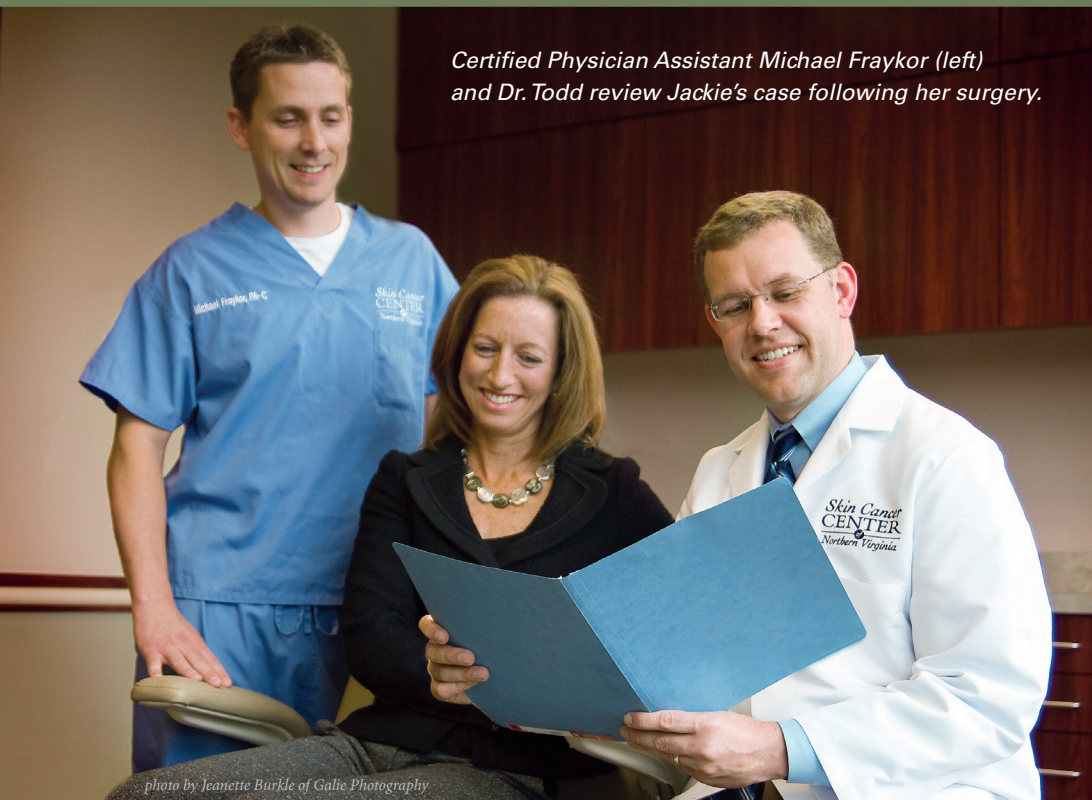


NORTHERN VIRGINIA HEALTHCARE PROFILES



Certified Physician Assistant Michael Fraykor (left) and Dr. Todd review Jackie's case following her surgery.

SKIN CANCER: The Skill You Need for the Results You Want

Jackie Nickol knows the importance of regular skin cancer screening.

Last year, her dermatologist discovered a basal cell carcinoma on Jackie's face.

"He sent me to Dr. Michael Todd at the Skin Cancer Center of Northern Virginia," says Jackie. "I was nervous about having surgery on my face, but from the moment I stepped into Dr. Todd's office, I was sure I was in the best possible place for my treatment.

"Everyone was so confident and comforting, and everything was explained so clearly, that I knew I'd have a great result."

Board certified dermatologist Michael M. Todd, MD, specializes in the treatment of skin cancer.

"We're seeing younger and younger patients with skin cancer, so it's never too early to begin thorough screenings," he says. "Jackie's basal cell carcinoma was once seen only among much older patients."

Dr. Todd offers a full range of skin cancer treatments, and he selected Mohs

micrographic surgery to remove Jackie's facial lesion.

"Mohs surgery removes only enough tissue to eradicate the cancerous lesion," informs Dr. Todd. "We remove skin cells layer by layer, evaluating each layer until we

"When you have skin cancer on your face, I think you always worry about surgical scarring. Dr. Todd did such a great job that if I ever move and need Mohs surgery again, I'm coming back. I want Dr. Todd's expertise."

—JACKIE NICKOL, PATIENT

know we've removed all the cancer. To keep patients relaxed and comfortable, we have satellite radio in each room, and we provide beverages and snacks. Our goal is to give our patients the best experience they've ever had with a medical practice."

"I'm pleased," confirms Jackie. "No one even notices my scar, and my cancer is gone!"

What to Watch For

Basal cell carcinoma accounts for about 80 percent of skin cancers. Watch for a new, shiny pink bump on sun-exposed areas, particularly on the face. If you have what you think is a "pimple" that won't go away, or a spot that bleeds when you wash your face, it may be an early skin cancer.

Squamous cell carcinoma

is less common but potentially more aggressive than basal cell carcinoma. Lesions can appear as wart-like growths that crust over and bleed, or as persistent, thick, rough bumps.

Melanoma is the least common but most dangerous form of skin cancer. Lesions can form anywhere on the body, but are most commonly found on the back, chest, and legs. Watch for existing moles that change in appearance, and be aware of the ABCs of melanoma:

- Asymmetry
- Border irregularity
- Colors are varied

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