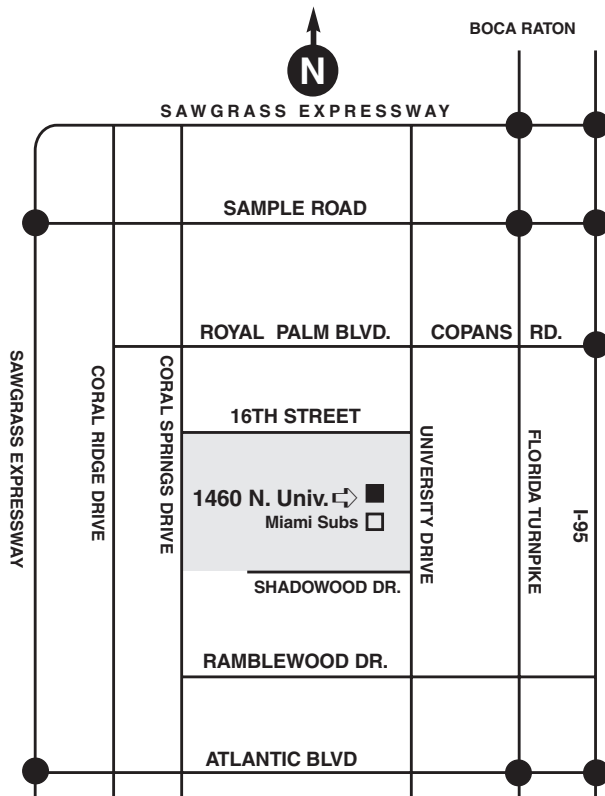


## About Dr. Vitulli

Dr. Vitulli grew up in South Florida and attended Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine from which he graduated in 1990. He then completed a one-year rotating internship which included training in internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology. After completing an internal medicine residency and preventative medicine fellowship at the University of Tennessee, he worked as an emergency room physician for the Baptist Hospital System and St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis. In August of 2000, Dr. Vitulli moved back to South Florida to attend the dermatology residency program at Nova Southeastern University. He became board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology in 2003. His specialties include Mohs microscopically controlled surgery of the skin, general and preventative dermatology, cosmetic and laser surgery and dermatologic surgery.



3 traffic lights north of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of University Drive.

Parking in the front and additional parking in the rear of the building.

● EXITS ON MAJOR HIGHWAYS

# MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY FOR SKIN CANCER



SKIN INSTITUTE

Dermatology Consultants  
of South Florida. P.A.

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BOARD CERTIFIED:  
American Osteopathic College of Dermatology

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## What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a surgical technique for removing skin cancers, i.e. basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas. It was developed by Dr. Frederic E. Mohs of the University of Wisconsin in 1936. This technique has the advantage of removing most skin cancers with a cure rate of 98%. The other great advantage is that the maximum amount of healthy skin is preserved, which is very important, especially on the face.

## How is it performed?

The surgery is most commonly performed in an outpatient setting using local anesthesia. The cancer is excised in thin layers. Each layer is processed in our laboratory and examined microscopically to be sure that no cancer cells remain. If cancer cells are observed, then another layer is removed, processed and examined. This is repeated until no more cancer cells are seen under the microscope.

## How long does it take?

The surgery takes only 5 to 10 minutes. However, to process and examine the tissue requires meticulous work which we are usually able to complete in about one hour. Most skin cancers can be completely excised in 2 or 3 stages, therefore requiring 2 to 3 hours. It is best to bring a book or magazine to pass the time. Be prepared to remain most of the day in case it is necessary. Bring a jacket or sweater; our office may be too chilly for you. Please realize that we are trying to ensure complete removal of your cancer and preserve the maximum amount of normal skin.

## What happens to the wound?

When we feel confident that the cancer has been completely removed, we will discuss wound care or repair with you. Sometimes, the wound is small enough that it will heal on its own, however, the wound may require stitches to avoid distortion of the surrounding skin as it heals.

## Will there be a scar?

There will always be a scar after any type of surgery, however, we attempt to minimize scarring with our Micrographic technique.

## What should I do to prepare for surgery?

Get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast the morning of surgery. If surgery is in the afternoon, eat lunch before leaving home. Bring a friend to keep you company and to drive you home in case you don't feel able. If you are taking any blood thinner such as Coumadin (Warfarin), Persantine, Plavix or aspirin, do not discontinue. Contact the office for further instructions. **10 days prior to surgery, after consulting with your prescribing physician first, do not take** the following blood thinners: Ecotrin, Excedrin, Anacin, Bayer, Bufferin, Alka Seltzer, Vitamin E, Fever Few, Turmeric, Garlic, Ginger, Ginseng, or Ginko Biloba. **7 days before surgery do not take** arthritis / muscle pain medications such as Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, Motrin, Naprosyn, and Feldene.

## How much will it cost?

Most health insurance policies cover the cost of this type of surgery. Every effort will be made to accept assignment from your insurance company to minimize your financial expense.