'Since my first year in practice, I've given my cellphone number to every surgery patient I take care of. I want them to know that I'm available to them after hours if they have questions or concerns.'

[dermatologic surgery] Dr. Alysa Herman

Focusing exclusively on the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer, Dr. Alysa Herman is one of only a few dermatologic surgeons in Miami who specialize in Mohs surgery.

WHAT IS MOHS SURGERY?

"It is the most effective and precise treatment for the most common types of skin cancer. The cornerstone of Mohs surgery utilizes a microscope to ensure that all traces ('roots') of the skin cancer are removed while preserving the maximum amount of normal healthy skin.

"In addition to removing the skin cancer, I was also trained in reconstruction of the surgical wound. Since not all Mohs surgeons perform the closure ('stitching') of the wound, our patients appreciate not having to see another surgeon after having Mohs surgery and being able to stay in one office with one doctor for their entire treatment."

HOW DO YOU APPROACH PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICINE?

Being treated for skin cancer and having surgery is often a stressful experience. My staff and I strive to create personalized care and a sense of hospitality. Patients often comment on the warmth and happy environment of the office."

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE TO PATIENTS?

"It's simple: Use sunscreen every day. Most people believe they only need to wear sun protection when they are at the beach or playing golf. But if you live in South Florida, you are getting sun exposure the moment you leave your house, even while driving to work.

"There are simple steps people can take to make sunscreen use a daily habit, like keeping sunblock next to their toothpaste so that they can make it a one-two step in the morning."

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT PRACTICING MEDICINE IN SOUTH FLORIDA?

I enjoy the diverse, multicultural environment. I'm originally from The Bahamas, so this part of the world is home to me.

Dr. Alysa Herman, 135 San Lorenzo Avenue, Suite 700, Coral Gables; 305-444-4979; dralysaherman.com.