

# Reconstruction Project

Restoring function, aesthetics following Mohs surgery

**B**lond-haired, blue-eyed and light-skinned, Pat Lawson is a child of the 70s who grew up just outside of Atlanta, Georgia, where she spent most of her weekends boating and water-skiing on nearby Lake Lanier.

Throw in her family's annual, two-week summer vacations to Panama City Beach and the fact sunscreen didn't really become a thing until the 80s, and it's easy to understand why Pat has spent the past 30 years battling skin cancer.

"I have a family history of it that includes my brother dying from

melanoma," Pat relates. "Not only that, but most skin cancers are attributed to those early burns we experience as a child and teenager, and I had plenty of them.



"As a result, I have been under the constant care of an excellent dermatologist since 1984, and last March, I had *Mohs surgery* to remove a *basal cell carcinoma* on my nose that was very extensive. I wound up losing three-fourths of my nose."

Mohs surgery involves the microscopic removal of thin layers of cancerous skin tissue that is immediately examined while the doctor and patient wait for the results. The procedure is repeated until the tissue removed no longer contains cancerous cells.

Knowing it would be extensive, Pat was advised to make plans to begin reconstructive surgery the day after the Mohs procedure was completed. She made those arrangements with Daniel L. Rothbaum, MD, a board-certified otolaryngologist who specializes in facial plastic surgery at Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat.

## Skill Test

"Following the surgery, Pat was missing a large portion of her nose." Dr. Rothbaum

explains. "The nose has three layers. The deepest layer is the internal lining or inside of the nose. The second layer is cartilage that forms the structure of the nose; and the third layer is the outer skin."

The internal lining of Pat's nose remained largely intact through the surgery, Dr. Rothbaum reports, but large parts of cartilage and a great deal of the outer layer of skin were missing.

To rebuild the structure of the nose, Dr. Rothbaum harvested cartilage from Pat's ear, shaped it, then sutured it to the remaining cartilage of the nose. In this way, he rebuilt the structural foundation of a properly functioning nose.

Next, Dr. Rothbaum worked to replace the missing skin on Pat's nose. That objective was achieved by a combination of three flaps in which skin from the bridge of the nose, the right cheek and forehead were used to reconstruct various subunits of the nose.

Dr. Rothbaum is well known for his skillful reconstructions. For this reason, Pat's dermatologist recommended Dr. Rothbaum for the job.

"It takes a highly skilled physician such as Dr. Rothbaum to do this surgery well because I've seen others come out with results that are not as pleasing as Dr. Rothbaum's," Pat states. "He's really good at it. He's also very compassionate and optimistic, and I couldn't be more pleased with his work.



"I have a fully functional nose, and I would encourage anybody who has to go through the surgery I had to see Dr. Rothbaum for their reconstruction."

*FHCN article by Roy Carveridge. Photo by Jordan Pysz, mbb*

## For Audiological & ENT Expertise

The skilled physicians at Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat welcome your call.

They are located in Lake Mary, DeLand and Orange City. For an initial consultation at any location, call:

**(407) 774-9880**

OR

**(386) 774-9880**



Daniel L. Rothbaum, MD, is board certified in otolaryngology and specializes in facial plastic surgery and otolaryngology. He's a leader in balloon sinus dilation surgery in Central Florida. Dr. Rothbaum graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in Cambridge, MA with a degree in social studies. He received his Medical Doctorate (MD) degree from Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT. Dr. Rothbaum completed his internship and residency training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.



Devang Shah, MD, is board certified in otolaryngology. After receiving his medical degree with honors from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, he completed his surgical internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1997. Dr. Shah is a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and has served as chair of the department of surgery at Florida Hospital Fish Memorial, Orange City. He co-authored several journal articles investigating the relationship between microscopic inner-ear structures and hearing function and has presented his work at research conferences.

Visit Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat on the web at [www.myENTdoctor.com](http://www.myENTdoctor.com)