

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

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Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Why Write Articles?

There are many medical journals that are packed with research articles. Most people do not possess the knowledge to read and understand them. Even the news media will sometimes misquote the general concept or the conclusions. More important is that a single scientific study is by itself meaningless. There are probably studies that say smoking cigarettes are good for you but a hundred more studies prove they are toxic. Only after reviewing all the studies can one make the final conclusion.

My articles are all based on something a patient in this town has told me. Once again today a patient came in and told me their mole cannot be a cancer since it is flat. Many melanoma cancers are in fact flat, not raised. I have already talked about this in a previous article.

On the news a few nights ago there was a short medical article on skin cancer. They showed a picture of what they described as a typical melanoma cancer. It was jet black, half raised and half flat, also much bigger than those I usually see. This presentation is not the usual. The ones I see are much more varied in color and fortunately smaller. Melanoma is rarely uniform and jet black in color. I have seen purple, brown, even white colored melanoma cancers.

These articles I write are hopefully easy for all people to understand. They may dispel a lot of the things my patients are doing wrong every day. I also use this column to do a little teaching. I describe the different types of specialty doctors patients may require, the lab tests that we get for certain problems, and basic safety principals.

The most difficulty I have writing these articles is making them easy to read and understand. Most doctors describe things to patients with doctor language, not patient language. We think in very scientific terms and it is sometimes hard to talk to patients in simple terms. It is something all doctors need to work on.

Medicine is changing fast. It is sometimes hard for even the doctors to keep up. With these medical articles I hope to keep people up to date with some of the things that affect us on a daily basis. All articles are based on things happening in our community.

**The above represents the opinion of A. E. Haas, M.D.
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Just call us directly. No referral needed unless required by your insurance company

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