

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

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*Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery*

## ***Difficult patients***

The other day a wound clinic patient would not come into the building to be examined. We had been treating him for a leg wound that was infected. I still do not know why he actually came to the building but refused to come inside. When I heard he was outside at the curb waiting for his ride back home I decided to go see him there. Actually the other doctor who specializes in antibiotics went too. We examined him on the spot. I ran inside to get a prescription pad and he was given antibiotics. The patient was so impressed he promised to fully cooperate in the future.

Sometimes we have to fight with patients just to get them to come and get examined. Why must this be the case? Some people just cannot make an effort to help themselves. There are patients that come in for an infection. We give them a prescription for antibiotics but they never get it filled. They say they hate to take medication or that it tastes bad or makes them lose their appetite. Maybe it may unsettle the stomach. Then we have to sit there and argue with these people on how important it is that they take their medication as prescribed.

One patient was sent for a blood test to check the level of antibiotics. He left the clinic but skipped the test. When later questioned the patient said he refused the test because the needle stick hurts. Again we have to argue with some people to get tests so they do not get over or under medicated. We try to treat these people yet they fight us.

I have on occasion dismissed patients from my care. It has always been a patient who changed the care plan without telling me. These people have at times done the opposite of what I suggested for treatment. I cannot be responsible for a patient who decides to invent their own care plan that may be unacceptable to me. I do at times compromise care plans with patients when they request it. The altered plan must however be a plan that has a reasonable chance of working.

I also dismiss patients that are not honest as the ones who do not admit they have a drug problem and patients who consistently lie to me. Some tell me they are resting and staying off their feet to get that leg wound healed. I later find they are working full time or playing golf every day. We condemn the use of things as peroxide or rubbing alcohol, also all ointments. Some patients use them anyway. Again, I cannot be responsible for these patients who do things against my medical advice.

Patients have every right to be treated the way they want. This may require finding that particular doctor who does it your way. Be truthful. Speak openly with your doctor. The field of medicine is complicated. Patients deserve the best care we can give them and we need everybody's cooperation to accomplish good medical care.

**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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