

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

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

## **Wounds - Immunosuppressed states**

Immunodeficiency is when your body's immune system loses function. This system is what fights off disease, infection and even things like cancers. These deficiencies may occur at birth, be a result of a disease like cancer or AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), or a result of medications. Many anticancer drugs cause immune problems.

Radiation by accident or for cancer treatments may cause similar problems. The use of steroids for lung or breathing problems will cause a host of side effects including immune dysfunction. Steroids are also used for conditions as allergic reactions or for serious health issues as Lupus or Rheumatoid arthritis.

The immune suppression that is a side effect of steroids is used as a benefit for those people with organ transplants. Our body can detect the presence of somebody else's kidney for example. Your body thinks it is a foreign object and tries to fight it off, reject it. Left to its normal function your immune system will kill off a transplanted kidney or heart. In order to keep your body from being able to fight off another person's organ we must suppress the immune system with medications as steroids.

The suppression of your immune system in this case is not a side effect but rather the action we want from the medication. However, even though the kidney is prevented from being rejected we are faced with the inability to also fight off infections and cancers. People with transplanted organs all get more infections and cancers. The doctors keep a closer eye on these patients to look for and treat sooner anything that looks suspicious.

Some patients are actually treated with a low dose of antibiotics forever. This too has side effects.

Patients with immune deficiency conditions are not usually in the best of health to begin with. Small problems may become complicated very quickly. Small wounds for example may become infected sooner and certainly healing will be slow.

Your immune system is very important. If the function is reduced by disease or as a result of medications then numerous problems may result. Frequent doctor visits especially at the first sign of any problem is a must.

**The above represents the opinion of A. E. Haas, M.D.  
Venice Plastic Surgery, Venice Wound Center, Lakeside Medical Center**

**Just call us directly. No referral needed unless required by your insurance company**

836 Sunset Lake Blvd # 103, Venice, FL 34292  
**(941) 492-4775**