

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

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

## ***Wounds - Stay out of the Hospital***

The role of the community hospital has changed drastically over the last few decades. One change is that a lot of procedures, surgeries and tests that required hospitalization can now be performed on an outpatient basis. We used to keep patients in bed for days at a time after certain procedures. Now we get them right up and send them home.

As it turns out it is usually better for the patient to get up and going sooner. It is healthier, recovery is faster. We can also send nurses out to your house to check on you. They can give IV antibiotics and change dressings.

Patients sometimes ask to be put in the hospital but the doctor refuses. This is usually in your best interest. Some feel the insurance company is refusing admission. This may be true but it may in fact be the doctor. And he is doing it for your own good.

There are a lot of sick people in the hospital these days. I would say the average person is much more medically complex than in the past. You are most likely better off at home with some help assuming you have a less severe problem. I would like for my patients to stay away from other sick people if possible.

For those with serious medical conditions there is no better place than the hospital. Some big procedures in otherwise healthy people require inpatient care too. A knee replacement surgery in that healthy golfer is a big surgery. There is a lot of blood loss. The internal chemistry of the body shifts. These patients must be watched. Pain medication must be given in large amounts yet not too much either. Close scrutiny is required and not available at home.

The average wound patient can be treated as an outpatient. Even bed sores and skin grafts are mostly performed with same day surgery. My biggest problem is keeping some of these people down. I tell them to rest and keep their leg wound elevated but they go out and play golf. Some patients need to be hospitalized to keep them from hurting themselves in this way.

The doctor is the best person to decide if hospitalization is best. They should weigh all the factors and suggest the best course of action. The best course may be stifled however, when those insurance companies tell us how to do it. Us doctors want all our patients to get well fast. We are overworked as it is. There is also the sense of accomplishment we get by curing someone's challenging ailment quicker and getting them back to the golf course sooner. Doctors like to win the battles against disease.

**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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