

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

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

## **Risks of Surgery and Limitations**

All aesthetic procedures have certain limitations and risks. For the perfectly healthy individual the risks of cosmetic surgery procedures are very low.

Today we perform fewer procedures at the same time limiting the time in surgery, blood loss and anaesthesia. This makes things safer than in the past when multiple procedures were done all in the same operation. Be wary of this. In our practice we look first at health issues then at the cosmetic procedure.

Some come into the office and say that another surgeon, Dr. X, can do multiple procedures at the same operation. This is actually possible in a sense. If each separate procedure is performed to a lesser degree then several procedures can be combined. At Venice Plastic Surgery the object is to perform as best as should be done and take the time needed to be sure that each single procedure is well done.

Some say Dr. X can do the procedure with fewer scars or little swelling or no bruising. This is only possible by doing smaller, less extensive procedures. If more surgery is done, if it is more thorough, then more swelling and bruising must occur. These things are a function of how much work is done. When a lot is done then a lot of swelling will occur.

Note that the amount of bruising and swelling is very dependent of each patient. Some swell more and some less. But in all cases there will be more swelling and bruising as more surgery is performed.

This limiting factor for say a face lift is the age and quality of your own skin. If you had a lot of sun exposure at an earlier age your skin is damaged. If you smoked at one time your skin is damaged more. If you got a few sun burns your skin is very damaged, even if you cannot detect it. Your genetic make up is important as is your general health. Did you have a time in your life when your health was less well maintained?

To minimize the risks of surgery any Cosmetic Procedures are performed in the hospital or the Outpatient Surgery Centers, not in office surgery rooms. We need Anesthesiologists present to do sedation or even general anaesthesia. Some doctors do it themselves while doing the Cosmetic Surgical procedure. This is not good. We want a room full of surgical assistants, nurses, technicians all at the same time. We want a recovery room full of trained nurses, not just one nurse as in some office surgery settings. We want a surgical suite full of all sorts of surgical instrumentation. If we do get into a difficult situation, and yes it can happen, then we are prepared to deal with the issue.

Bleeding is always present with any surgery. But the procedures should not be continued if the need for a transfusion is close. Why risk it? Stop and complete the procedure another day if necessary. This is just safer in our way of thinking.

Infections occur with any surgery of any type. The trick is to catch it early. At Venice Plastic Surgery a commitment is needed from the patient before any surgical procedure. Patients are seen often after surgery. If an infection starts and it is caught early then further complications are often prevented. Patients must be examined every few days after procedures to answer questions, check incisions and inspect or change dressings.

**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**