

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Wounds - Congenital and Hereditary Issues

Congenital problems are those you are born with. If they are things that were past down to you from family members in your genetic make up then they are considered to be hereditary.

The child specialist or Pediatrician will sometimes send patients to the wound center. Burns are a good example of problems we see. They are common in all age groups.

There are blood vessel tumors called hemangiomas that may result in bleeding wounds. Some of these tend to regress in children but less often in adults. When they burst they bleed profusely and are sometimes hard to stop. Always apply pressure directly to the area and this should hold it until you can get to a doctor.

The pediatrician may see patients with congenital nevi. In some series they degenerate from benign moles into malignant ones up to 10 percent of the time. Some say remove them early and others say to wait until they actually turn into something bad. Preventative medicine in my book means remove them now, before they have a chance to go bad.

Juvenile diabetes results in wound healing problems. This occurs in children just like adult onset diabetes does in adults. In fact the wound doctor may be the first to detect the diabetes by noting the patient heals poorly.

When adults get cuts or step on a nail they may get a tetanus shot. For children we must check to see if they are getting the whole series of shots they require. They must be given in a particular sequence. These immunizations are imperative for children.

There are other congenital problems that result in poor healing. If the person is born with a defective heart then circulation may be compromised. This will result in more infections from lesser wounds. Obviously those whose immune systems are lacking will also get more infections.

Cutis laxa is a weakening of the skin. Epidermolysis bullosa results in early skin cancers. Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome causes bad infections. There are a number of infancy conditions, most with long names that effect healing.

When skin and wound problems occur in children we must consult the pediatrician for help. Even when the current health problem is improved these patients often require specialized long term care. The doctor must be certain all the child's shots are up to date.

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

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