

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Wounds - Favorite Cases

Patients often ask what some of my favorite and most rewarding cases have been. I will share these moments with you now. Since I am a plastic surgeon you may think it is some patient who came in for a facelift. It is actually quite easy to take a 90 year old and make their face look thirty years younger. Most cosmetic cases are in fact easy to perform, that is why so many people are doing it these days.

The more difficult cases are the reconstructive patients. One of my favorite cases was this 90 year old lady who went out for some groceries. She lived close by and had a bag of food in each hand. She tripped over one of those cement car parking blocks. I hate those things. Anyway she landed smack on her face and broke just about every bone in it. I was called into the hospital to see her. The family doctor did not think there was anything we could do, after all she had a good life and was now almost ninety one years of age. Why should we do a big procedure to try to save this old lady's face anyway?

On closer inspection the woman was in excellent health, lived by herself and fully took care of all her own needs. That included walking a distance with her groceries to get them home. Physically this woman was in her 60's not 90's. A person's age is nothing but a number on a sheet of paper. It tells you nothing of that patient's well being and condition. I have people in my wound clinic who are 40 years old but in worse shape medically speaking.

I repaired this lady's facial fractures and got her back to her normal self. Even I was amazed how well she came out. To this day I think of her when another doctor presents a patient to me as a lost cause. When is that really the case?

I have treated several burn patients and some people with severe birth defects that were very rewarding to me. But another case that comes to mind is a patient whose hand was run over by a car. It was bad. When they called me in the doctors asked what I was going to do. I told them I did not know but that I would probably think of something.

I ended up sewing his hand into a pocket I made in his stomach wall. He walked around the hospital for a week with his hand attached to his stomach like this. It looked a bit unusual to say the least. It took several operations to get everything repaired after which he returned to working on computers. Once again, even I was amazed.

There are many other cases that come to mind. Most are ones that seemed impossible at first. But somehow we ended up with a fix. However, not everything is possible. These days we are seeing a lot of unhealthy people living longer, presenting new challenges. This is why wound care is becoming a specialty in itself.

**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