

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Wounds - Medical treatment

One of the reasons for the development of wound care specialty centers is that the treatment of wounds is quite variable. There is no one treatment that works for everybody.

The problem is that patients and wounds are different. Even the same patient with a facial wound may need different treatment for leg wounds. Here at the Center for Wound Care we often treat side by side leg wounds with different medications even on the same leg! We may change the type of dressing or antibiotics during the course of care as wounds need to be tested to see what works best. I cannot over emphasize that the treatment one patient gets is unlikely going to work on another patient with a similar wound. Care must be directed to that patient's specific needs.

There are many considerations. Germs must be eradicated. Wounds cannot heal if they are infected. Dead tissue must be removed. These necrotic tissues harbor germs that antibiotics will not effect. Areas with skin loss must be closed or covered with tissue, sometimes skin grafts. This is particularly important when deeper vital structures are exposed as muscle and tendon tissues or bone. These problems appear often in bed sores or pressure related wounds. Circulation problems are common and must be improved if possible. Sometimes a bypass procedure like in heart surgery is needed to increase blood flow to an area. The task for the doctor is to get the earliest treatment started to help the lesser wound from involving these deeper structures. This is part of preventative medicine.

Most wounds can be treated at the clinic, hospitalization is not usually needed unless the wounds are massive, badly infected or other out of control medical problems exist at the same time. If something as a skin graft is needed we usually treat these on an out-patient basis avoiding hospitalization. An alternative to hospitalization is a skilled care center. We also use the home health agencies. These nurses can perform difficult dressing changes, wound cleaning and even antibiotic delivery thus avoiding hospitalization.

The treatment of wounds must be specific to the patient's needs and the nature of the wound itself. Today there are many options to choose from and the best person to make the decision is the wound care specialist.

**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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