

Our Goals:

The doctor will review your general medical condition, the medications you are taking and the reasons for having the procedure. If you are determined to be a good candidate he will discuss options of treatment and the goals for your surgery.

Procedures are individualized to the patient. Tattoo removal and scar revision changes the look of the area. Additional cosmetic or reconstructive surgeries may be added to have a more dramatic effect. Extra procedures add to the overall cost, time of surgery and recovery period. The use of make-up may be needed to help hide surgical scars and other changes.

People are different and the results of surgery vary too. Generally speaking we tell people that the deformities will not be removed, only lessened. Tattoos can almost always be removed however, unless they cover a large percent of your body without normal skin nearby. We are limited by the quality of your own skin and underlying support structures.

Generally, making the tattoo into a line is much harder if not impossible to visualize. And scar lines can be minimized as well.

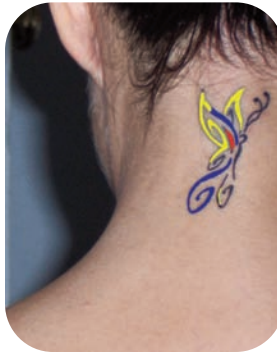
Before Surgery:

All medications that thin the blood may have to be stopped 2 weeks prior to surgery. A half of one aspirin thins the blood for 2 weeks! There are a host of vitamins, pain and arthritis medications that thin the blood as well.

You need to get a relative or friend to be with you for the first few days after the procedure. They will have to drive you to and from surgery and the office afterwards. Have some easy meals ready to be made. Do not plan on having friends over or leaving town for at least one week. You may be given pain medication and antibiotics. Get these before having the surgery so they are handy.

During Surgery:

Some small tattoos can be removed in the office. General anesthesia is sometimes used for large procedures that



have to be removed at the outpatient surgery center. The patient is totally asleep. We do not want you in pain or moving during the surgery. This is often the case when surgery is performed in the office using only sedation. We can work more efficiently too. Most procedures are 1 to 2 hours long but there will be time needed to start IV's before surgery. The recovery room period may last a few hours as well.

The incision lines are visible but often less obvious.

After the Procedure:

While still in the operating room the completed surgery is impressive to see. Soon afterwards however, the swelling and bruising starts. The more extensive the surgery, the worse the bruising and swelling. This makes sense. If a surgeon tells you that there will be minimal or no swelling or bruising then the surgery cannot be very extensive.

During the first few days after surgery the swelling and bruising worsens. The face in particular, may look like a balloon and the eyes may be swollen shut after removing facial tattoos. It can be quite scary. The pain is not usually bad. Do not be alarmed as the skin may be numb for a while. By the end of the first week the swelling and discoloration begins to diminish.

It usually takes the first week or two before you actually start to look good. When we take "after surgery" pictures we usually take them about a year after the original surgery. That is when the results usually look their best.

Do not plan on going back to work or driving for at least the first week or two. You will be given pain medication



and should be very careful about coordinated tasks. Even cooking is not a good idea. When in a car, always use a seat belt and sit in the back seat. People have been injured by airbags going off while in the front seat. We try to keep you safe and preserve our work.

For the first few weeks after your surgery avoid strenuous activity. No lifting over 5 pounds. Do not do housework, you need rest. Avoid alcohol, smoking or even the presence of smokers.

Do not get sun. Even when the doctor says it is OK to go outside you must use sun block of at least a number 30 SPF for at least 6 months, maybe longer. For general good health anyway you should always use sun block on exposed skin surfaces.

By the third week we allow the use of makeup. This will help hide some of the scars as they heal and will help camouflage bruising.

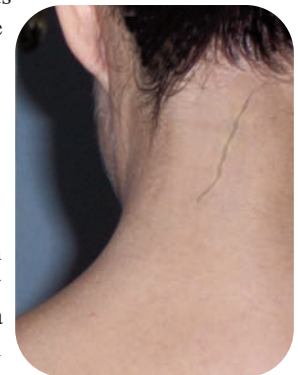
Additional Cosmetic Enhancements:

Laser or chemical peel treatments may be of benefit for the aging face. Sometimes these are performed before and other times after the scar or tattoo surgery. The doctor may tell you about these additional cosmetic procedures.

Many are satisfied with only the initial surgery alone. There is usually a noticeable improvement in appearance. Many of our patients tell us that they wished they had the procedure earlier.

Why wait? You are worth it.

We can also help people with other procedures as a tummy tuck (abdominoplasty), a breast lift or fat suction in several other areas.



Common over-the-counter pain, allergy and cold medications as well as arthritis drugs may thin your blood. Do not take any of these without first discussing it with your doctor.

Complications may include bleeding problems, infection nerve and muscle damage, poor healing, adverse drug and anesthetic reactions. Some may require more surgery at additional cost. The skin surface may not be perfectly even. People who smoke or used to smoke have much more healing and infection problems than patients who never smoked. The surgical area may be numb initially. Most of the sensation returns. This may be of benefit as it keeps pain to a minimum during the healing period. Nerve and sensory damage may occur. Insurance companies do not usually pay for these when cosmetic surgery is involved.

Following the doctors instructions minimizes the risk of problems. Do not do anything different without calling the doctor first. Most of the advise your friends and neighbors give you is probably incorrect. The doctor asks that you call him if you have any questions at all.

Tattoo removal surgery lasts forever. When completely removed it is gone at all levels. It cannot re-appear.

Some discriminating patients will get additional procedures in the coming years so that they always look their best. But remember, even a single successful surgery may make you forever look better than you would have looked without the procedure.

Why Wait?



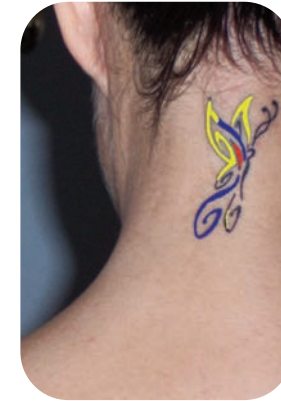
Also needed is a fully staffed and equipped recovery room.

We believe that larger scar surgeries should be performed in a hospital or hospital outpatient facility setting, not in the office. Safety is a major concern for us, and hospital facilities are much better equipped. We use the team approach with an operating room filled with registered nurses, registered OR technicians and M.D. anesthesiologists with their assistants.

Venice Plastic Surgery

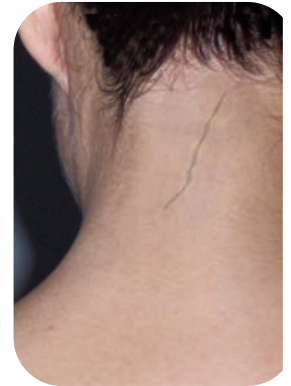
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Tattoo Removal Surgery

This procedure is designed to remove tattoos from cosmetic applications, trauma, burns or reconstructive or ablative procedures



Venice Plastic Surgery A. E. Haas, M.D.

Tattoo removal surgery is for men and women of any age. There is no upper limit. The patients often have tattoos from cosmetic procedures that are no longer desirable. Newer techniques diminish pain and accelerate healing. The major limitations are your own skin and underlying tissue structures. Those who have had a lot of sun exposure or who have smoked cigarettes in the past have the poorest skin quality. Some patients will require secondary "tune up" procedures to further benefit. Multiple procedures will be at additional cost.

Why settle for less?