

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

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

## **Wounds - Cancer**

This topic is worth going over in detail. After all, the cancers found earliest are those cured most often. This is part of preventative medicine. The relationship between wounds and cancer is very close. They are frequently undistinguishable from each other.

Cancers often form into wounds. A cancer of the skin may form a knot or nodule, or it may erode forming a hole or wound. Frequently a patient tells me that they bumped their arm 2 months ago but it just does not heal, or they scratched their face and the area bleeds on occasion. Cancers eat into surrounding tissues. This is why cancers often bleed. Certainly, a bleeding nodule or growth of some sort is a cancer until proven otherwise. Anything that takes more than a two or three week period to heal must be examined by a doctor.

Patients think that doctors can just look at a growth or wound and know what it is. This is not true. When we look at something and say it is a wound, mole, a wart or something else, we are just guessing. It is of course an educated guess. The pathologist in the laboratory is the only person who can tell us what something really is. This means that a part or the whole wound or growth in question must be removed and sent to the lab. In general the larger the specimen the better the chances the lab will be able to make an exact diagnosis.

Wounds, especially long standing chronic ones may turn into cancers. This type of cancer that comes from a wound is particularly severe, aggressive and hard to treat. When an area of the skin is irritated by the sun or chemicals or the irritation of a wound, a cancer may develop. Many cancers develop from things that disturb the normal body. Exposure to cigarette smoke irritates the lungs and over time causes lung cancer. So does breathing things as asbestos or toxic chemicals. Exposure to radiation causes certain types of blood cancers. Sun burns are known to start skin cancers. All these irritate the normal body function in some way. A long standing wound is a type of irritation. It may be caused by diabetes or poor circulation and it may be benign at first. Then it turns into a cancer. A benign wound today may be a cancer tomorrow.

Wounds must be closely followed by a physician. There are too many bad things that can happen to them. Worse yet the wound may actually be a cancer from the start!

**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**