



Local Plastic Surgeon Specializes in Complex Reconstructive Hand Surgeries

It wasn't that long ago that William Newenhisen had a terrible accident. He stuck his hand into the propeller of a gasoline-powered model airplane and severed his thumb.

"I remember the shock, the sound and the sight," says William, who has flown his radio-control model airplanes for 35 years. "I heard a thud. I didn't feel it, but I did see it...lots of blood and then the pain. It was a nylon blade, almost sharp as steel."

Dr. Drew Kreegel, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon affiliated with LMHS, was able to save William's thumb.

Dr. Kreegel specializes in plastic and reconstructive surgery, which includes healing burns, industrial and agricultural injuries or other afflictions through the LMHS trauma center. Besides emergencies, he operates on hereditary deformities of the hand, as well as conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome. He also specializes in cosmetic surgery.

"Every time I work on hands, I think very close to home," says Dr. Kreegel. "If it happened to me, I may lose my career. I need my hands. I'm a surgeon."

Law enforcement officer George Kantor sought out Dr. Kreegel to correct his condition before his hands debilitated his own career. George developed Dupuytren's contracture disease, where hand tissue contracts and curls the fingers into the palm in a clawing fashion. George found his fingers curling in on him and hindering

simple tasks, like putting his hand into his pocket or reaching into a drawer.

"Your mind tells you your fingers are straight, but they're not," George says. "They're in the way."

Dr. Kreegel says hand injuries or issues are the second biggest concern of patients. "An injury to the face being an obvious first," Dr. Kreegel says. "But an injury to the hand so limits your ability to interact with the world around you. How frustrating to not be able to pick up a pen or button a shirt."

Dr. Kreegel operated on George's left hand in December, mobilizing tendons and joints by removing the bad tissue responsible for tightening the fingers. George's left hand now lays straight open, and he's moving forward with surgery to relieve the tension in his dominant right hand, his gun hand.

"Dr. Kreegel instills enough confidence in me, he can do it," George says. "He has an air of confidence about him, and that makes me confident."

For more information, contact Dr. Kreegel's office at 239-343-9777.



Drew Kreegel, M.D., FACS
Kreegel Aesthetic Surgery Center
16410 HealthPark Commons Drive,
Building 2
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-343-9777



Early Detection Is The Key With Skin Cancer

More than a million new cases of skin cancer are reported every year, making it the most common form of cancer in the United States. But, the good news is that if detected early enough skin cancer can be treated and cured.

There are three major types of skin cancer. **Basal cell carcinoma** is the most common form and affects more than 800,000 Americans each year.

Squamous cell carcinoma, the second most common form, affects more than 200,000 Americans each year. Both basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma are most commonly found on the face and appear as a sore that won't heal, a reddish patch, a bump that resembles a mole or an area that looks like scar tissue.

The third form of skin cancer, **malignant melanoma**, is the most dangerous and aggressive form. It manifests as black or brown bumps or patches with irregular edges, and in its advanced state can cause serious illness and even death.

In most cases, if skin cancer is caught early, a surgeon can easily remove the cancerous cells with one of several techniques, including surgical excision or cryosurgery.

In instances where skin cancer has grown to affect a larger area, surgeons must take more aggressive measures, including radiation therapy, removal of affected lymph nodes or chemotherapy.

In today's world, physicians use special care to minimize scarring when removing cancerous cells, but if necessary, they can perform a skin cancer revision surgery afterwards to improve the appearance of any

Carol McNeely's six-year-old granddaughter can't stop touching grandma's face these days. "Your face is soft like mine," she says.

Since June, Carol has been treating her face with Obagi system skin care products, under the discretion of her plastic surgeon. Her "brown-aging spots" are nearly invisible, and Carol admits she feels prettier. She wants to lose weight, buy new clothes and spend more time styling her hair.

"I didn't want a facelift or anything drastic," says Carol. "I'm aging. This is the face God gave me, and I like it. This just helps it look better."

Now you can enjoy various cosmetic procedures without surgery. "People want treatment that does not require much down time, bruising, swelling, staying at home, having to hide," says Dr. Drew Kreegel, board certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon. "They do not want to be kept out of work. They want an option that's less expensive, less scary and more convenient."

Non-surgical alternatives stretch beyond Obagi system ongoing skin care. The muscle-relaxing agent BOTOX® smooths facial creases. Dermal fillers, such as Radiesse and Restylane, restore facial fullness. Phototherapy stimulates rejuvenation of the skin through pulses of light energy.

"I was born with thin lips," confesses Bonnie Wade, who sought the volume of Restylane. "A tube of lipstick won't last me a year anymore. It might last me three months."

Bonnie feels safe in the hands of Dr. Kreegel and cannot stress enough the need to find the right plastic surgeon, who is board certified and willing to educate. She credits her confidence for steering her towards her plump lips pursuit. "It bothers me when I hear that women who

"People want treatment that does not require much down time, bruising, swelling, staying at home, having to hide"

a woman to walk into a plastic surgeon's office because she wants to get rid of a wrinkle takes a lot of guts. I don't think it takes low self-esteem."

After turning 30 and feeling like she was looking tired, Christy Sendra was versed beyond the BOTOX® cosmetic stereotypes. "People have a set image of a woman with oversized lips and overextended eyes," says Christy, who previously worked in the field of plastic surgery. "That's absolutely a false image. It's a quick and easy way to soften your appearance, that's all."

Christy has seen women with highly expressive faces, exaggerated smiles and laughs, who did not care for the leftover lines. "After BOTOX®, they weren't afraid for the happiness they felt on the inside to show on the outside," says Christy.

Dr. Kreegel jokingly refers to his practice as limited to plastic surgery and psychology.

"There's a lot of emotion attached to body and self-image," says Dr. Kreegel. "When you can improve a patient's perception of their own appearance, they feel better about themselves and the world around them. When people think they look better, they act better."



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