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Page e114

Functional reconstruction with the radial forearm flap

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Background: A retrospective study was conducted to evaluate the advantages of radial forearm flap in tongue reconstruction.

Objectives: Reconstruction of the tongue should provide good outcome of both function and appearance; our goal is to highlight the reliability of radial forearm flap in tongue reconstruction.

Methods: From 2010 to 2014, a total of 15 patients receiving radial forearm flap tongue reconstruction were included in the study. Patients undergoing radial forearm flap reconstruction were observed. The medical records of the included patients were reviewed, and a questionnaire was used to assess acceptability of the surgery.

Results: All flaps were successful in 94% of cases; most patients were satisfied with the appearance of the reconstructed tongue and the intelligibility of their speech.

Conclusions: The radial forearm flap is an ideal method for tongue reconstruction. The thickness and volume can be adjusted based on the individual extent of the defect and it has other advantages also, including a long pedicle and low donor site morbidity.

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