

Modification of Flap Design for Total Mobile Tongue Reconstruction Using Antero-Lateral Thigh Flap

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Tongue is the most important structure involved in speech, bolus formation and initiation of swallowing.

The restoration of the function of the highly specialized tissue of the tongue is one of the great challenges for the reconstructive surgeon.

Patient and Methods

Since 2013, we have reconstructed 60 tongue resections by using a free flap(Radial forearm, ALT). Total mobile tongue resection represents a small group of 10 patients.

We reviewed the charts of the 5 patients which were reconstructed by an ALT flap with the '**cathedral design**', 5 patients (3 men and 2 women) underwent total mobile tongue reconstruction with a ALT free flap by cathedral design.

Result

All flaps kept a normal tongue shape and volume, even after radiotherapy, permitting a satisfactory dental and palatal contact.

Conclusion

This form and shaping this kind of flap has a good and direct effect on the quality of swallowing, speech and deglutition of our patients.