



A Comment on: “Lip reconstruction using superficial flaps: functional and aesthetic integration”

Comentário sobre: “Reconstrução labial com retalhos superficiais: integração funcional e estética”

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ABSTRACT

This Letter to the Editor comments on the article “Lip reconstruction using superficial flaps: functional and aesthetic integration.” The reported case series provides valuable clinical examples of individualized superficial flap selection for upper and lower lip reconstruction following excision of non-melanoma skin cancer. We emphasize the importance of tailored reconstructive planning while suggesting that objective functional outcome measures and clearer flap-selection criteria could further strengthen the translational impact of the study.

Keywords: Plastic Surgery Procedures; Surgical Flaps; Dermatologic Surgical Procedures

RESUMO

Esta Carta ao Editor comenta o artigo “Lip reconstruction using superficial flaps: functional and aesthetic integration”. A série de casos apresentada oferece exemplos clínicos valiosos da seleção individualizada de retalhos superficiais para reconstrução do lábio superior e inferior após excisão de câncer de pele não melanoma. Enfatizamos o valor do planejamento reconstrutivo personalizado, sugerindo que medidas funcionais objetivas e critérios mais claros de seleção dos retalhos poderiam fortalecer ainda mais o impacto translacional do estudo.

Palavras-chave: Procedimentos de Cirurgia Plástica; Retalhos Cirúrgicos; Procedimentos Cirúrgico Dermatológicos

Letter to the Editor

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We read with great interest the article by Aita et al. entitled “Lip reconstruction using superficial flaps: functional and aesthetic integration.” The authors are to be commended for presenting a well-structured case series demonstrating the successful use of multiple superficial flap techniques for reconstruction of upper and lower lip defects following surgical excision of non-melanoma skin cancers.

The main strength of the manuscript lies in its clinically oriented and individualized approach to reconstructive planning. The selection of mucosal rotation flaps, double V-Y advancement flaps, and O-Z rotation flaps according to defect characteristics reflects sound surgical reasoning and adherence to established principles of lip reconstruction. The emphasis on preserving oral sphincter function and maintaining aesthetic subunits is particularly relevant in perioral reconstruction, where both functional and cosmetic outcomes are critical.

The variety of techniques presented offers useful practical guidance for surgeons managing similar defects in routine

practice. In particular, the successful application of double V-Y advancement flaps for central lip defects and O-Z rotation flaps for more complex reconstructions highlights the versatility of superficial flap techniques in achieving both symmetry and functional preservation.

However, the manuscript could be strengthened by the inclusion of more objective functional outcome measures. Although photographic documentation provides valuable evidence of aesthetic success, standardized assessments of oral competence, speech articulation, and sensory recovery would enhance the clinical robustness of the reported outcomes. In addition, a more detailed discussion of the indications, limitations, and selection criteria for each flap type would further improve the translational value of the study and assist surgeons in preoperative decision-making.

In conclusion, this case series makes a meaningful contribution to the existing literature on lip reconstruction and reinforces the importance of tailoring reconstructive strategies to defect characteristics and functional requirements. ●

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