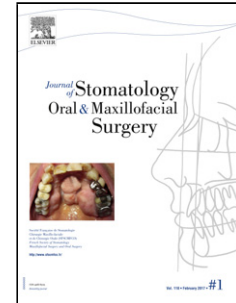


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Use of omental free flap for craniofacial reconstruction in unfavorable wound bed: a case report.

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Abstract :

Introduction: The omental free flap is an effective tool for craniofacial reconstruction. However it is generally under-utilised by a large number of practitioners. This paper's goal is to increase awareness of this free flap's accessibility and to demonstrate that it can be an attractive option for reconstructive surgery.

Clinical report: This article outlines the details of a 57-year-old patient who required coverage of a fronto-parietal wound with dura mater exposure. After previous failed conventional free flap attempts, a procedure using the omental free flap was finally performed on this severe wound. The omentum was harvested via a 8cm laparotomy and anastomosed to the temporal vessels. The final result was successful, with a favorable aesthetic result.

Discussion: The omental free flap has many advantages: the pedicle length is long, it allows coverage of a large wound, it can be applied to a wound bed previously irradiated and infected, it has a low morbidity rate to the donor site, the surgical technique of harvesting is easy, the aesthetic result is satisfactory. However, the absence of skin slice is a disadvantage of the omental free flap because it makes monitoring difficult and it requires a skin graft in a second procedure. Laparoscopic harvest of omentum free flaps is a safe and effective tool in the reconstructive armamentarium. Every maxillofacial and plastic surgeon should aim to master and use this method as a legitimate option in some infrequent but appropriated cases.

Keyword : omental free flap, microvascular reconstruction, craniofacial reconstruction

Case Report

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