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CASE REPORT

Reconstruction of a natural-appearing umbilicus using an island flap: case report[☆]

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KEYWORDS

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Summary A case of successful reconstruction of the umbilicus using a depressed scar in an 11-year-old girl with a large and rigid scar spreading around the centre of the abdominal wall is presented. The anatomical umbilicus was replaced by a large scar after a previous surgery for umbilical cord hernia. The difficulty of the conventional method compelled us to use a distant scar dimple as an island flap. In addition, the three-dimensional morphology of the umbilicus could be reproduced by rolling a spindle island flap into a cone. Postoperatively, the reconstructed umbilicus has remained deep and aesthetically well shaped.

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The umbilicus is a significant aesthetic component of the abdomen. Several different procedures for reconstruction have been reported to date,^{1–8} but when the natural position of the umbilicus is replaced with a large scar, reconstruction using the currently available methods is difficult.

Here we report an 11-year-old girl with a large and rigid scar at the centre of the abdominal wall, in whom the umbilicus was successfully reconstructed using an island flap.

The umbilicus of an 11-year-old girl was destroyed during surgery for umbilical cord hernia shortly after her birth in 1992. On her first visit to our hospital in 2003, she had a large radial scar measuring 4 cm × 8 cm around the missing umbilicus (Fig. 1(A) and (B)). The scar showed an irregular, uneven surface with a few small pits. The bilateral rectus abdominis muscles were hypoplastic and displaced from the midline. On

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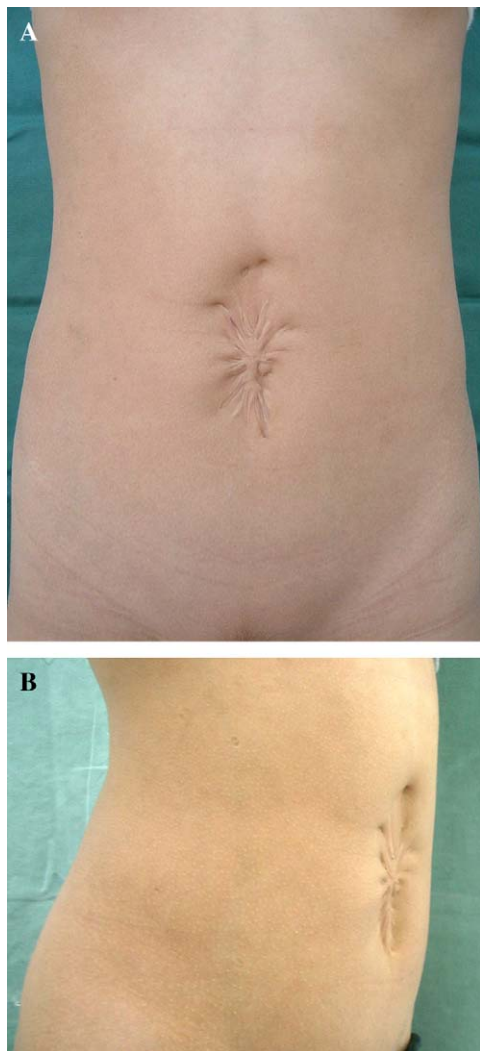


Figure 1 Preoperative views of the umbilicus; frontal (A), lateral (B).

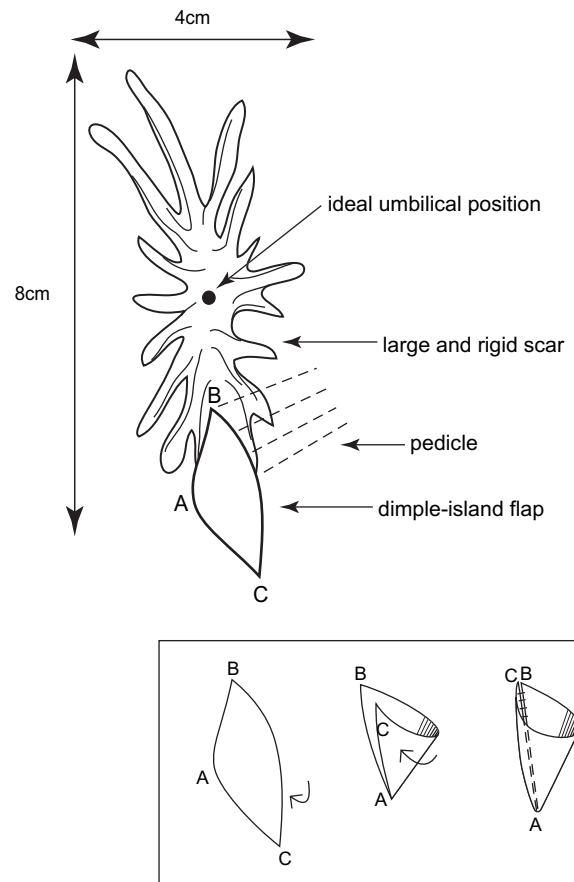


Figure 2 Diagram of the preoperative findings and surgical technique. After an island flap was shifted to an ideal position, it was rounded into a cone.

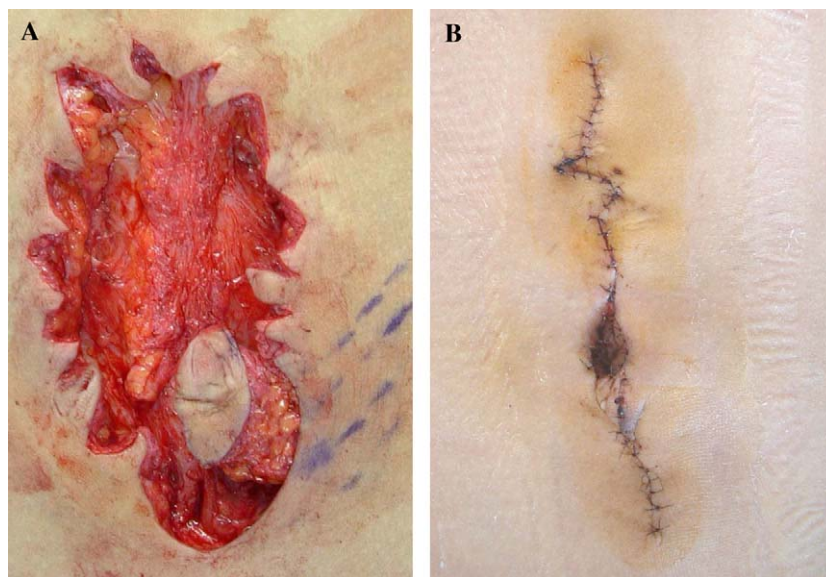


Figure 3 Elevating the distant dimple island flap (A) and the frontal view immediately after surgery (B).

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