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New perspective on thermography in reconstructions with TRAM flaps

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Abstract 250 words

Background

Among the problems encountered by plastic surgeons is the reconstruction of defects following tumors. One of the reconstructive options is TRAM flap. Despite that anatomy is well-explored, marginal flap necrosis may develop. To minimize complications imaging examinations was designed to determine the degree of flap perfusion. One of them is the thermographic examination.

Materials and methods

We examined 38 patients who had undergone 10 reconstructive breast surgeries with a pedicled TRAM IPSI flap, 10 patients with a TRAM CONTRA flap and 18 patients with a TRAM Supercharged flap.

Each operated patient underwent a thermographic examination before the surgery, after the dissection of the skin-muscle flap, immediately after suturing flap and during the 1st and 7th day after the surgery. The collected data were then processed to yield results in a numerical form and compared with clinical examination.