

00560 Comparing the Medial Sural Artery Perforator and Radial Forearm Flaps in Intraoral Reconstruction

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Aims: The radial forearm flap (RFF) is the flap of choice for intraoral defects. Recently, the medial sural artery perforator flap (MSAPF) has been successfully used with better donor site outcomes.

Methodology: We compared 5 MSAPF and 6 RFF patients who underwent intraoral reconstruction by a single surgeon. Data was collected on flap characteristics, postoperative complications, functional outcomes and patient satisfaction. Statistical analysis was performed using Fisher's exact and student's t-tests.

Result: The MSAPF was thicker and harvest time significantly longer compared to the RFF (129 vs 73min, $p < 0.001$). No flap deaths occurred with only 2 cases of minor flap tip necrosis in the MSAPF group. Partial intraoral dehiscence occurred in one RFF patient which was treated conservatively. Donor site complications, mostly minor, occurred in 2 MSAPF and 4 RFF patients ($p = 0.567$). Complete donor site healing was slower in the MSAPF group (3.6 vs 1.8 weeks, $p = 0.082$) but all patients were fully weight-bearing by 2 weeks. Both groups achieved similar speech and swallowing outcomes. All patients were extremely satisfied with their results.

Conclusion: Although dissection is more challenging and harvest time is longer, the MSAPF provides a good alternative to the RFF and results in a better placed donor scar.