

施行於老年病患之自由皮瓣重建:馬偕經驗分享
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Free-flap reconstruction in elderly patients: MMH experience

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Purpose:

Free flaps has become an accepted and versatile method of reconstruction for head and neck defects or skin defect with bone or tendon exposure. The increasing life expectancy of the population results in increasing numbers of ageing patients ,with concomitant medical problems, and are therefore facing complex reconstructive surgery and potentially at higher risk of adverse outcomes. In this study we evaluated our experience with free-flap reconstruction in older patients, analysing the post-operative reconstructive and systemic complications.

Materials and Methods:

Between Jan 2011 and Jul 2014 were included in this retrospective study. 609 patients underwent free flap reconstruction of defects resulting from the treatment of head and neck tumor or traumatic injury or chronic wounds at the Mackay Memorial Hospital . 65 free-flaps were performed in 62 patients (10.18%) who were aged more than 70 years old at the time of treatment.

Results:

At the end of the follow-up successful free-flap transfer was achieved in 62 of the 65 flaps harvested (95.3%). The overall reconstructive complication rate was 24.4%. Medical complications were observed in 29.2% of cases. One patient expired due to multiple organs failure after operation even though the survival of free flap.

Conclusion:

Our results suggest that free flap surgery is a safe technique in elderly patients. The chronologic age cannot be considered an appropriate criterion in the reconstructive decision. A careful selection of the patients based on comorbidities and general conditions is the primary importance in reducing post-operative complications and to improving the results of surgery.