

A pure dermal sling for implant reconstruction after mastectomy in the generous breast

P Sarmah, N Abbott, R Bright-Thomas
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Rachel Bright-Thomas, E: rachel.bright-thomas@worcacute.nhs.uk

BACKGROUND

Skin reducing mastectomy is a useful technique in immediate implant-based reconstruction. The implant is usually covered by muscle and a dermal flap.¹ We describe a modification to this technique for generous breasts involving the creation of a pure dermal sling.



Figure 1 Pre-operative marking for Wise pattern incisions

TECHNIQUE

A skin reducing mastectomy is performed via Wise pattern incisions, retaining an extensive inferior dermal sling of de-epithelialised tissue. A sizer is used to ensure the skin envelope meets the inframammary fold before an anatomical implant is placed on the pectoralis major. Complete coverage is achieved with the inferior dermal sling, which is sutured to the pectoralis superiorly. The superior skin can then be draped to the inframammary fold and sutured in the usual manner.

DISCUSSION

The benefits of a pure dermal sling include complete coverage of the implant and the preservation of an intact pectoralis major. This technique has been trialled successfully in two patients with generous ptotic breasts.



Figure 2 Pure dermal sling



Figure 3 After reconstruction using pure dermal sling



Figure 4 Results at four-month follow-up appointment

Reference

1. Nair A, Jaleel S, Abbott N *et al.* Skin-reducing mastectomy with immediate implant reconstruction as an indispensable tool in the provision of oncoplastic breast services. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2010; **17**: 2,480–2,485.

A technique to aid the insertion of distal locking screws

PR Middleton¹, L Ng², A Humphrey¹

¹County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, UK

²Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Paul Middleton, E: paulmiddleton1@hotmail.co.uk

BACKGROUND

The insertion of distal locking screws on an intramedullary nail can be problematic as there is no hardware such as a jig to aid insertion. Newly developed computer aided techniques are available but the cost can be prohibitive. Insertion of distal screws usually relies wholly on image intensifier guided positioning. This can be time consuming and requires many x-rays to be taken in order to create the 'perfect circles' on the image intensifier that demonstrate satisfactory alignment. We propose a technique that decreases insertion time and requires fewer image intensifier images to be taken while inserting a distal locking screw.