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Functional and aesthetic evaluation of Abbe-Sabattini cross lip flap for reconstruction of lower lip defects after squamous cell carcinoma excision

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Background: Defects larger than one half of the lip cannot be closed primarily; therefore, tissue transfer is necessary. The recommended surgical techniques for these defects are Cross lip flaps which include Abbe-Sabatini and Estlander flaps.

Patients & Methods: Ten patients with squamous cell carcinoma at lower lip not reaching angle of mouth excised with safety margin ranging from 0.5 cm to 1 cm in each side and the excision not including angle of mouth. The size of the defects in all patients after excision of the tumor was ranging from 1/2 to 2/3 the size of the lower lip. Reconstruction was done in all patients using Abbe-Sabattini cross lip flap and separation of the flap was done after three weeks.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 56.5 years (ranging from 47-70 years). Seven patients were males and three patients were females. In all patients the flaps were survived completely. We evaluate the Abbe-Sabatini cross lip flap regarding the functional and aesthetic aspects. Abbe-Sabatini cross lip flap had a good functional outcome regarding Oral continence to food, fluids and air and oral mobility and adequate oral access. In seven patients the sensations were gained completely within six months, but in the remaining three patients there were slight hypothesis after one year. We found also that Abbe-Sabatini cross lip flap had a good aesthetic outcome.

Conclusion: Abbe-Sabatini cross lip flap is an ideal versatile flap to reconstruct the defects of lower lip ranging from 1/2 to 2/3 of the size of the lower lip not including angle of the mouth with very good functional and aesthetic outcome.

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