

# Review of: "Free flap harvest from the infraumbilical region for head and neck reconstruction purposes: a retrospective cohort study."

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This paper reported a clinical application of 35 abdominal flaps (20 VRAM, 15 DIEAP) for the reconstruction of compound defects involving different structures in the oral and maxillofacial region. The study was multicenter and an informed consent was obtained from each patient, which can be considered as one of the strengths of this study. The authors give a very detailed description of the design, anatomy, operative technique, and clinical outcomes (particularly donor site morbidity). The study was done well, and the paper is organized and clear. I suggest to broaden the discussion and provide a more fair presentation by comparing abdominal flaps (VRAM, DIEAP) with the most commonly used flaps in head and neck reconstruction (ALT and Radial forearm flap)(i.e. the pro's/con's of each flap, as compared to the abdominal flaps can be compared for a more fair discussion. Although the radial forearm flap and ALT flap have proved their usefulness in the reconstruction of various head and neck defects, the RFF has been criticized for its limited size and thickness, and the conspicuous scar formation on the noticeable surface of the forearm. However, the thick thigh fat commonly found in Westerners and females might provide a bulky flap that is suitable for the reconstruction of large or compound defects in the head and neck region.