

Review of: "Low Donor Site Morbidity Supports the Use of Infraumbilical Flaps for Head and Neck Reconstruction: A Retrospective Cohort Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

An interesting study regarding the use of DIEA axis flaps for head and neck reconstruction, demonstrating a low donor site morbidity, over a long period of follow-up. I think this study would have been more supportive of the use of these flaps if the overall flap success rate was higher. Is the failure rate of these flaps higher because of:

- a. the nature of these flaps (eg. thickness, inelasticity of the skin),
- b. patient factors or
- c. defect size which made them less compatible for use in a head and neck setting as compared to a breast setting?

What were the criteria for patients to meet, in order to get these flaps over a radial/ulnar forearm flap or ALT? I am also not sure what abdominal wall firmness is. As the authors mention, a more objective measure of abdominal wall muscle function would also have strengthened the study. This is an interesting paper which does support the assertion of a low donor site morbidity.