

Review of: "Assessment of the differences in the use of free iliac flap for maxillomandibular defects with patient-reported outcomes"

Francesco Ceccariglia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Primary and secondary reconstruction of maxillomandibular defects has always been one of the most important challenges of the maxillofacial surgeon.

In this article, the authors describe a case series of secondary and primary reconstruction with free iliac flap.

I have found this work methodologically well-structured and developed. The clinical results were well described as were the complications.

The free iliac flap has always been considered a valid alternative to the fibula free flap in maxillomandibular defect reconstructions, which in my opinion should be considered the gold standard.

As the authors affirm, mandibular reconstruction with the iliac free flap allows a good aesthetic and functional outcome in those defects involving the mandibular ramus, angle, and body. However, in this study the reconstructed defects are more than half defects comprising body-symphysis-body.

Another small remark is the fact that this paper does not discuss mandibular reconstructions with CAD-CAM techniques. Today my opinion is that this technique should be mentioned if one wants to address the topic of mandibular reconstructions aiming at restoration of function and aesthetics.

However, the article, as mentioned above, apart from the minor objections, remains relevant and describes well how mandibular reconstruction with the iliac free flap can be a valid alternative to the fibula free flap.