

The Vital Role of Microsurgical Free Flap Reconstruction in Head and Neck Region

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Due to tumor resection, trauma, infection and other reasons, the oral cavity and maxillofacial area may require tissue transfer for reconstructive surgery. For medium and large hard or soft tissue defects, reconstruction with free flaps has become a routine treatment method. Commonly used sources of flaps include the forearm, upper arm, anterolateral thigh, and fibula. When dealing with smaller defects, the acceptance of free flaps by physicians and patients is relatively low. However, for some special structures,

such as the tongue, floor of the mouth, retromolar area, etc., if appropriate tissue reconstruction is not carried out, their defects or subsequent scars will cause serious functional damage. Today's expectations for reconstruction should not be limited to helping wound healing but should be aimed at restoring oral and maxillofacial functions. Free flaps are often the first choice for solving these problems. This lecture will explain the application of free flaps for reconstruction of the oral cavity and maxillofacial region.