

Reverse Pedicled Lateral Arm Flap for Reconstruction of Posterior Soft-Tissue Defects of the Elbow

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摘要

Abstract

Posterior soft-tissue defects of the elbow are difficult to reconstruct by conventional techniques such as closure by approximation or skin graft. An ideal technique should be an easy and reliable one-stage procedure that provides predictable surgical results with regard to elbow function and cosmesis. This report details our experience in 7 patients who underwent a one-stage procedure for coverage of the posterior elbow employing the reverse pedicled lateral arm flap. All flaps survived and all patients were able to resume full range of motion of the elbow joint at the 6-month follow-up. Complications included forearm paraesthesia in 3 patients and conspicuous scarring in a young female patient. We emphasize two valuable refinements in surgical technique including measuring posterior elbow defect in full flexion and postoperative elbow extension splinting. In trauma-related defects of the posterior elbow, a preoperative angiogram is important before raising this flap.