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**Abstract**

**Reconstruction of Electrical Burned Hand by Posterior Tibial Arterial Free Flap**

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**Introduction:** The hand and wrist are particularly susceptible to electrical burn. Skin defect with damage or exposure of underlying vital structure requires coverage by skin flap especially in case of the need for late reconstruction.

We are reporting 4 cases of electrical burned hand treated by posterior tibial arterial free flap.

The commonly used skin flaps such as scapular flap or groin flap are too bulky so that they are not satisfactory in function and cosmetic appearance. So we tried to cover them with a more thin skin flap.

**Materials and Method:** From January 2002 to June 2003, four cases of hand and wrist electrical burn were covered using posterior tibial arterial free flap. All the cases were due to high voltage electrical burn. Age ranged from 31 years to 38 years old and all the cases were male patients. Recipient sites were 2 wrist, one thenar area and one knuckle of 2.3rd MP joint.

Additional procedures were flexor tenolysis (simultaneous), FPL tenolysis and digital nerve graft (later) and extensor tendon reconstruction (later).

**Result:** All the flap have survived totally without any complication including circulatory concern about the donar foot. Posterior tibial arterial free flap was so thin that debulking procedure was not required.

**Conclusion:** For skin coverage of the hand & wrist region, posterior tibial arterial free flap have many advantages such as reliable anatomy, easy dissection and easy anastmosis with radial or ulnar artery and possibility of sensory flap.

The most helpful advantage for hand coverage is its thinness. So we think this flap is one of the very useful armamentarium for reconstructive hand surgery.

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**Key Words:** Posterior tibial artery, Free flap, Electrical burn.

2.

가

1 , 1 , ( ) 2 .  
4x7 cm 10x15  
cm 95.1 cm<sup>2</sup> .

가 , 가 ,

가

3.

(anterior border of tibia)

(midline of posterior

calf) , (proximal) (tibia  
tuberosity) , (distal) (medial  
malleolus) .

2

가

4.

(cutaneous perforator)

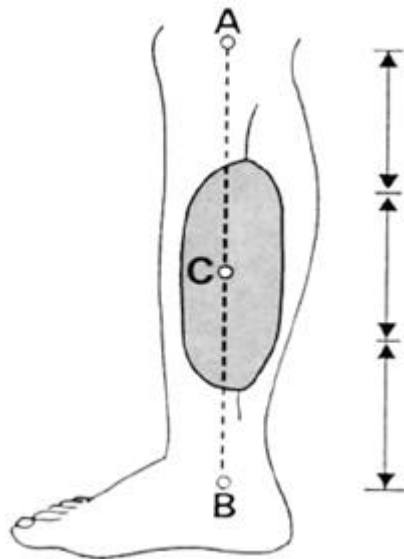
가

(angiography)

가

(main pedicle

artery)



1.

2002 1 2003 6

4

. 4

22,900V

31

38

35

**Fig. 1.** Line **A, B.** 2 cm post. to subcutaneous border of tibia **C.** main perforator 1cm post to mid point of the leg LK Hung (1990. J reconstr Microsurg)

(venous drainage system)  
 (great saphenous vein)  
 (posterior sub-cutaneous border of tibia) 가  
 2cm (vertical line)  
 (longitudinal axis)  
 (doppler)  
 (mid point) (cutaneous perforator)  
 18.6 cm  
 (Fig. 1).  
 (vascular pedicle)  
 1/3 1/3

(first incision) 가  
 (posterior border) 가  
 가 (Table 1).

1. 1.(38 )  
 가 가  
 38

**Table 1.** (Clinical data and Outcomes of PTA flap)

Pt.	Mode	Recipient site	flap size	anastomosis	outcomes	Additional procedure
M/38	EB	Rt wrist volar side (flexor adhesion)	7 × 15 cm	RA-PTA-RA GSV-CeV CV-CV	Survived totally	flexor tenolysis
M/35	EB	Lt hand thenar side (FPL exposure)	4 × 7 cm	PTA-RA GSV-CeV CV-CV	Survived totally	FPL tenolysis
M/31	EB	Rt hand 2, 3, 4 MPJ dorsum	7.5 × 13 cm	PTA-RA GSV-CeV CV-CV	Survived totally	extensor reconstruction
M/37	EB	Rt wrist volar side necrosis	10 × 15 cm	PTA-RA GSV-CeV CV-CV	Survived totally	

EB : Electrical Burn, PTA : Post tibial artery, GSV : Great saphenous vein  
 CeV : Cephalic vein, CV : Concomittant vein, RA : Radial artery

(7x15 cm) (radial artery), (great saphenous vein) (cephalic vein), (radial concomittant vein) 2 (posterior tibial concomittant vein) 2~3

(Fig. 2).

2. 2.(35 )

35 22000v (zone of injury)

(4x7 cm)

(radial artery), (great saphenous vein) (cephalic vein), (radial concomittant vein) 2 (posterior tibial concomittant vein)

3 (Fig. 3)

Zel<sup>8</sup>

(Joule heating)

(electroporesis) (ignition burn) 가 가

1983 . Zhang<sup>6</sup>(Medial leg flap)

1989 Li<sup>12</sup> (Reverse-flow posterior tibial artery island flap)

, Hung<sup>4</sup> Koshim<sup>5</sup>

(Post. tibial perforator-based free flap)

(grasp) (pinch)

(popliteus muscle) 가 (soleus)

가 (soleus) (flexor digitorum longus) (perforator) (septocutaneous perforator), (musculosepto (perforator)) (periosteal perforator)

(direct cutaneous perforator=septocutaneous perforator)

가 Koshimã (cutaneous perforator) 1/3 (septocutaneous type) 가 (soleus) (flexor digitorum longus)

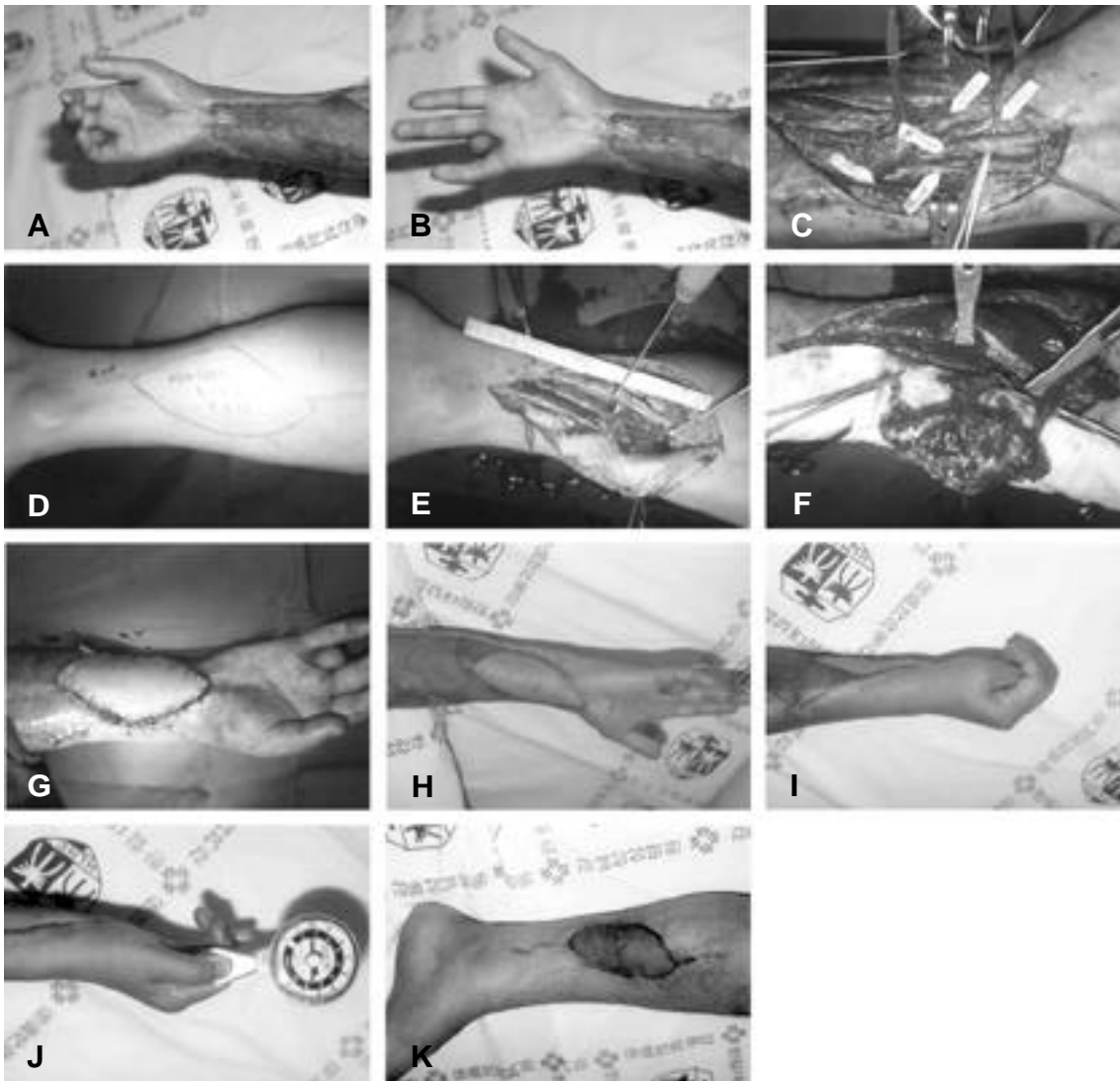
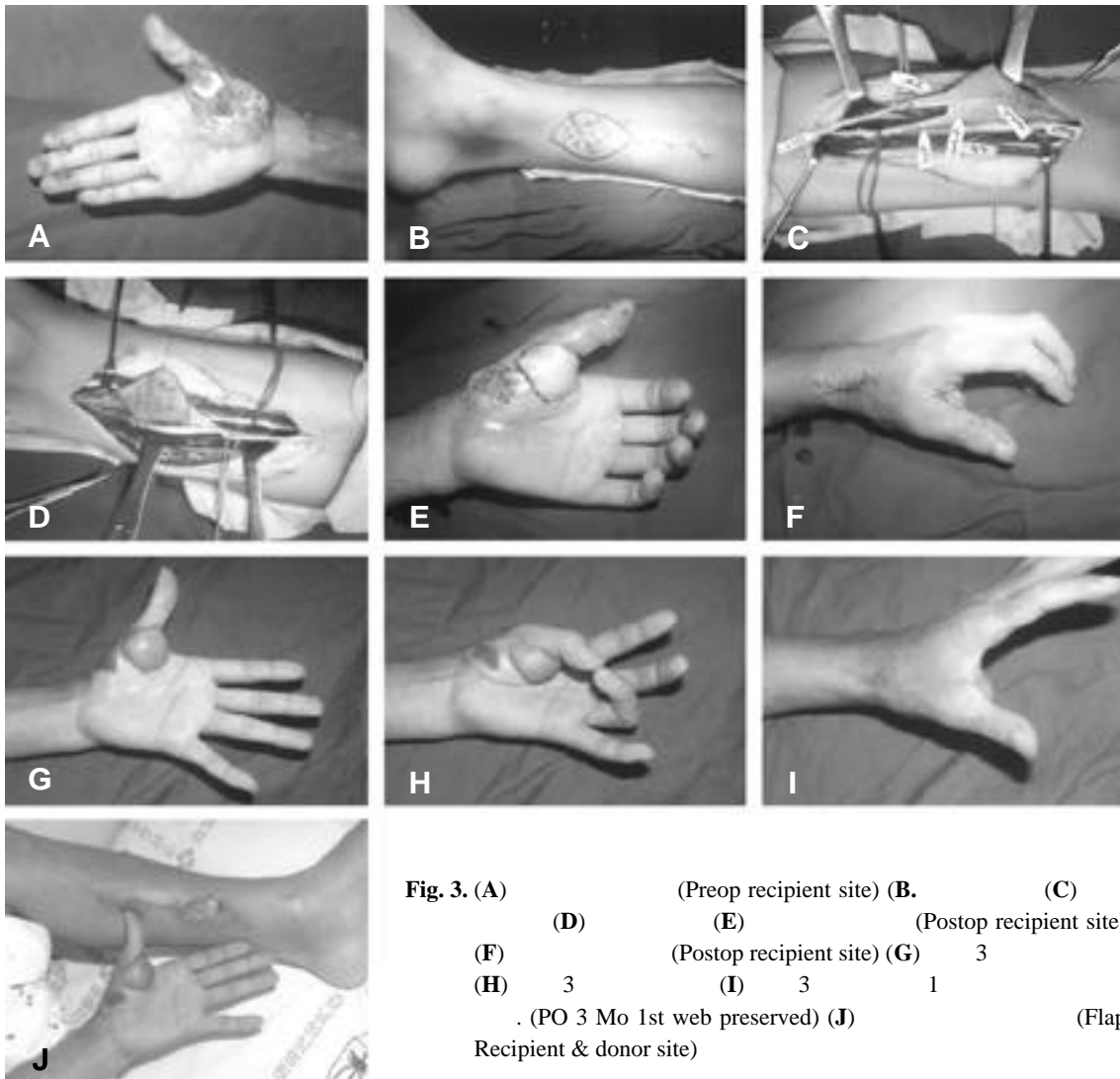


Fig. 2. (A) (B) (C) (Flexor Tenolysis) (D) (E) (Postop recipient site) (H) 14,17 cm 가 (F) (G) (I) 6 가 (J) 6 (K) (Flap Donor site)

(intermuscular septum)  
 (muscu- , Wu<sup>16</sup>  
 oseptocutaneous perforator) 4 (zone  
 1 ~ 4).  
 (periosteal perforator) (direct cutaneous perforator)  
 가 zone 2 3 zone 2  
 0.5 1.5 mm, zone 1 zone  
 (septocutaneous perforator) 2 , zone 3 1.0 2.0 nm . zone  
 1/3 가 (Fig. 5).  
 (musculoseptocutaneous (musculoseptocutaneous  
 perforator), (periosteal perforator) perforator)  
 1/3 .(Fig. 4)



**Fig. 3.** (A) (Preop recipient site) (B. (C)  
 (D) (E) (Postop recipient site)  
 (F) (Postop recipient site) (G) 3  
 (H) 3 (I) 3 1  
 . (PO 3 Mo 1st web preserved) (J) (Flap  
 Recipient & donor site)

가 , 가 가  
 . ( zone 1 zone 3 )  
 zone 1 가  
 (tendinous portion)  
 , zone 3 가  
 .  
 zone  
 2 , 3 11 가  
 6.7 . 0.5 mm  
 가 zone 3 1.0 1.5 mm  
 가  
 가 0 7  
 가 ( 3.5) zone 2.3  
 , zone 3,4 (Fig. 6).  
 (flexor hallucis longus)  
 0 4 가 ( )  
 1.6) zone 1.2 , zone 3, 4  
 Hung<sup>5</sup> , (direct cuta-  
 neous perforator = septocutaneous perfora-  
 tor) 90.91%가 1/2

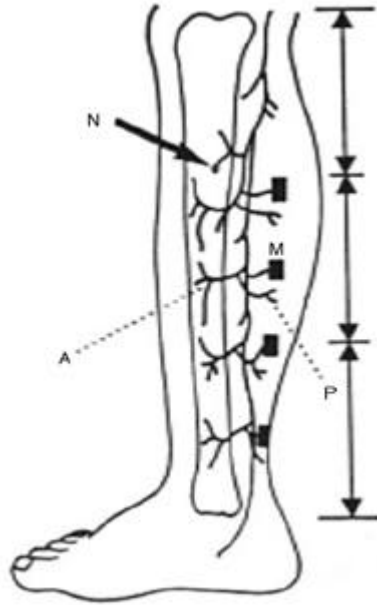


Fig. 4.

M: musculoseptocutaneous perforator  
 N: Nutrient artery of the tibia enters the bone at the level of the junction between the upper & middle third LK Hung (1990. J reconstr Microsurg)

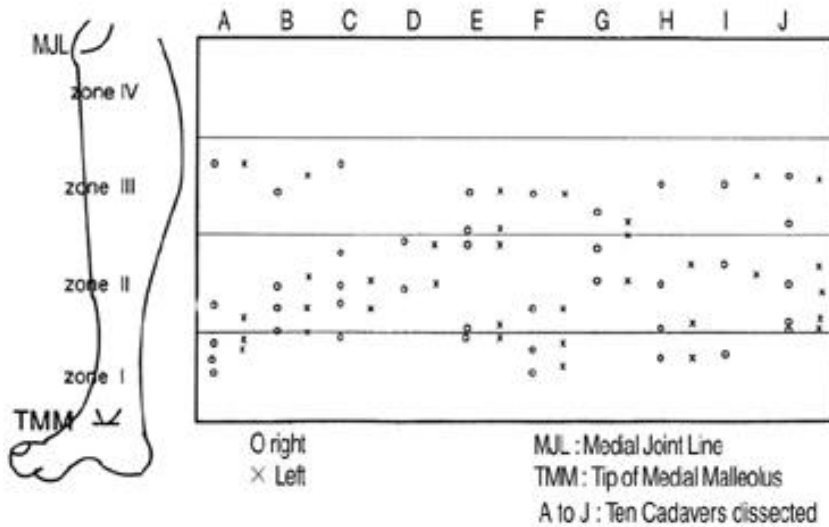


Fig. 5.

Number and distribution of direct cutaneous branches of posterior tibial vessels WC Wu (1993. Br J Plast Surg)

(cutaneous perforator) 0.2 mm  
 ( ) 58.2% 2.5~6.5 cm( 4 cm)  
 (direct cutaneous perforator) 가 5 cm  
 41.8% 가 Hung<sup>f</sup>  
 (cutaneous perforator) 18.6 cm 4 cm  
 zone 2, 3 (61%) 3 4  
 가 , 가 가 Koshimã  
 (medial malleolar) 18.6 cm 1/3 1/3  
 ( $\pm 4.5$  cm) 1.5 $\pm$

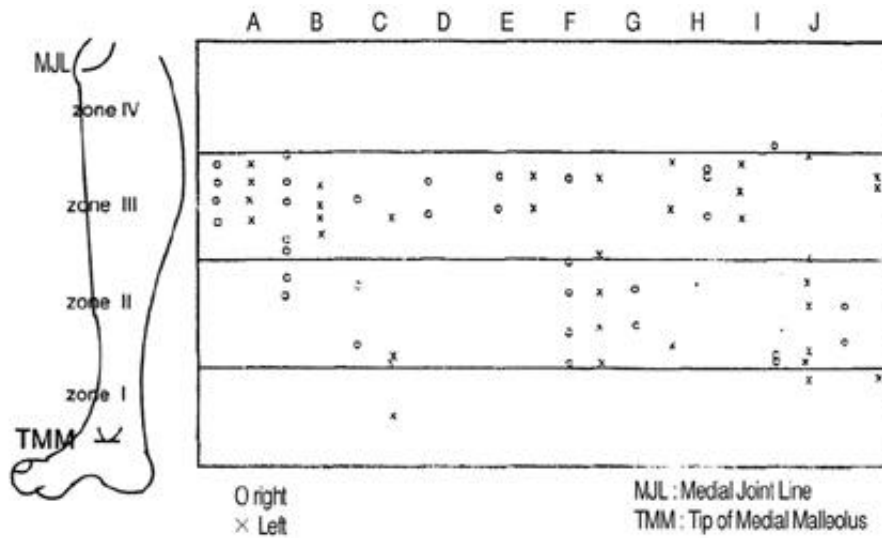


Fig. 6. 가  
 Number and distribution of musculo-septocutaneous perforator to soleus WC Wu (1993. Br J Plast Surg)

Table 2. (Comparison of the characteristics of different free flap)

Flap	Size	Vessel	Bulk of subcutaneous tissue	Sensory nerve
Radial	++	+++	+	++
Lateral arm	++	+	+	+
Scapular	++	+	++	-
Groin	+++	+	+++	-
Saphenous	++	+	+	+
Peroneal	++	++	+	++
Dorsalis pedis	+	++	+	++
Posterior tibial	++	+++	+	++

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