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Abstract

**Lower Extremity Reconstruction with Cross-Leg Free Flap
Only for Vein Anastomosis**

**Sang Hyun Woo, M.D., Kyung Chul Kim, M.D., Gi Jun Lee, M.D.,
Jin Sam Kim, M.D.*, Joo Sung Kim, M.D.**

*Kim & Woo 's Institute for Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery, Hyundai General Hospital, Taegu, Korea
Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan, College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

This study was designed to introduce the cross-leg free flap only for vein anastomosis as an alternative salvage method for the reconstruction of severe soft tissue defects in vascular-compromised lower extremities. Four cross-leg free flap reconstructions were performed using the latissimus dorsi muscle to reconstruct soft tissue defects in the lower extremity. The recipient artery was confined to the ipsilateral side and the venous anastomosis was carried out in the contralateral side. Both legs were immobilized together with an external fixator. All patients were males, and had a mean age of 31 years. The mean time of pedicle division was 8.8 days range of 7 to 10 days. The mean size of the flap was 186.5 cm². All flaps survived after pedicle division without venous congestion. There was no complication in joint stiffness, nor donor site morbidity except for a linear scar. The cross-leg free flap only for vein anastomosis is a refinement of a salvage procedure used for the reconstruction of severe soft tissue defects in vascular-compromised lower extremities.

Key Words: Cross-leg free flap, Lower extremity reconstruction, Vein repair.

Running title: Cross-leg flap, Vein repair,

2003

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(,)

1854 Hamilton Stark²
1950 Stark²
1970

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(zone of injury) 가

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가

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3-8

가

5 7
10

3-4

2

가

10 (6

가.

16)

4

65

8.8 (7 10)

4

(Table 1).

31(5 54)

186.5 cm²

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(cir-

cumferential)

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1

1

Table 1. Demographics of Patients

Case	Sex /Age	Site	Cause of injury	Gustilo type	Previous treatments	Flap size (cm)	Recipient artery	Method of artery repair	Timing of vein pedicle division
1.	M/54	Rt. Proximal 1/3rd leg	Incomplete amputation	IIIc	Revascularization & LD free flap	14 × 13	Anterior tibial A.	End-to-side repair	10 th day
2.	M/23	Lt. Anterior knee	Composite tissue defect	-	Patella ligament repair	14 × 18	Posterior tibial A.	End-to-end repair	10 th day
3.	M/40	Lt ankle	Incomplete amputation	IIIc	Revascularization & LD free flap	12 × 6	Dorsalis pedis A.	Distally based end-to-end repair	8 th day
4.	M/5	Rt. Foot & ankle	Open fracture & composite tissue defect	IIIc	Debridement & ORIF	16 × 15	Anterior tibial A.	End-to-side repair	7 th day

14×18 cm

10

12

(Fig. 1).

6

12×6 cm

6

가

6

8

6

9

(fistula)

(Fig. 2).

16×15 cm

1) 1
23

가

7

2) 2
40

가

3) 3
5



Fig. 1. (A) 23-year-old man sustained extensive soft tissue defect with a concomitant patellar tendon rupture of the left knee due to a motor vehicular accident. (B) The defect was covered with a latissimus dorsi muscle free flap with cross-leg vein anastomosis. On the 7th day after operation, intermittent pedicle clamping was started on the venous pedicle. (C) and (D) Appearance 12 months after the operation.

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(Fig. 3).

5

7

9

가 가



Fig. 2. (A) 40-year-old man sustained a Gustilo type IIIC open fracture of the left distal tibia and fibula. (B) Preoperative radiograph. (C) Six months after a primary latissimus dorsi myocutaneous free flap, an open wound developed, exposing a segment of metal plate. (D) Venous congestion after a secondary latissimus dorsi myocutaneous flap. (E) Latissimus dorsi flap salvaged with a cross-leg venous anastomosis. (F) Appearance 9 months after the operation. Note the chronic draining fistula on the flap site due to osteomyelitis.

Gustilo IIIC²

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Taylor³

1979

(iliac osteocutaneous flap)

가

Townsend¹⁰⁻¹²

10

가



Fig. 3. (A) A 5-year-old boy sustained an extensive open wound on the dorsum of the right foot. (B) and (C) The extensive defect was covered with a latissimus dorsi myocutaneous cross leg-free flap only for vein repair. Appearance 6 months after the operation. (D) Preoperative angiogram shows the posterior tibial artery singly perfusing the right foot. (E) Postoperative radiograph at 9 months.

가 .¹³ (delay procedure)
 26 ,¹⁴ photo-
 plethysmograph
 (skin flap)
 3 , 4 가³⁻⁷
 Chen¹⁷
 2 가 1
 가
 가가 .⁴

(avascular bed)

1

(neoangiogenesis)

3

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5

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(toxic metabolic products)

^{18,19}

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가 가

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7.6

(external bleeding)

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4

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8.8

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