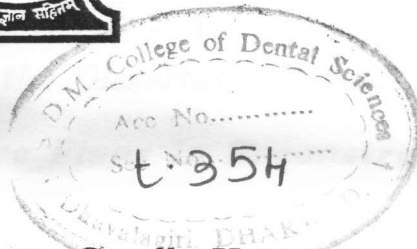


# ***USE OF VASCULAR RADIAL FOREARM FREE FLAPS IN RECONSTRUCTION OF OROFACIAL DEFECTS - A CLINICAL STUDY***



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In malignancy, morbidity following the resection of oral lesions is high. Different modes of reconstruction have been tried in the past and some of them are widely used nowadays, but these methods fail to achieve the delicate harmonic equilibrium between the various objectives of reconstructive and rehabilitative measures viz., cosmesis, function and coverage of vital structures<sup>110</sup>.

Modern head and neck surgery is characterised by its emphasis on these important objectives of reconstructive and rehabilitative measures. The restoration of normal oral function following ablative surgery or trauma depends on a variety of factors, that include, the reconstruction of complex osseous, dental and soft tissue anatomy<sup>124</sup>. Over the past two decades there has been a steady advance in the available surgical techniques for orofacial defects<sup>44</sup>. Although myocutaneous flaps have achieved deserved popularity, free tissue transfer to reconstruct defects in the head and neck region is fast gaining momentum.

Magnification by microscope in anastomosing vessel is a relatively new method. The free tissue transfer has afforded the surgeon an opportunity to critically address the