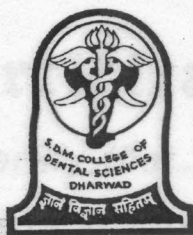
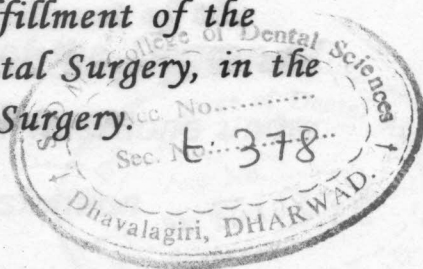


THE PECTORALIS MAJOR MUSCLE FLAP FOR ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RECONSTRUCTION



*Dissertation Submitted to the Rajiv Gandhi University of
Health Sciences, Bangalore, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Dental Surgery, in the
Speciality of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.*



September 2004

Dr. Sanjay S. Rao

**Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences & Hospital,
Dharwad.**

Carcinomas of the oral cavity form the second most common cancer in India. Patients usually present with advanced disease which requires extensive ablative surgery.

Modern head and neck surgery is characterized by its emphasis on three important objectives of reconstructive and rehabilitative procedures: viz. cosmesis, function and coverage of vital structures.

Restoration of normal oral function following such extensive surgery depends on variety of factors which include reconstruction of complex osseous, dental and soft tissue anatomy. To achieve optimal function and esthetics is therefore a challenge to the oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Over the past two decades, there has been a steady advance in the available surgical techniques for reconstruction of orofacial defects after ablative surgery. The use of myocutaneous flaps has been a huge step forward in head and neck oncological surgery, as it allows extensive resection which is necessary to comply with the demands of radical removal of malignant tumours and at the same time achieving acceptable morphological and functional restoration.

Pectoralis major myocutaneous flap is one such flap which is probably the most reliable and commonly used flap in orofacial reconstruction.