



**THE VERSATILITY OF TEMPORALIS MYOFASCIAL FLAP IN
MAXILLOFACIAL RECONSTRUCTION – A RETROSPECTIVE &
PROSPECTIVE STUDY**

By

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ABSTRACT

Background: The use of the temporalis muscle for reconstructive purposes in head and neck surgery has been a well known procedure since XIX century. Its field of application was extended after the superb demonstration offered by *Tessier* (1980) of various possibilities of this myofascial flap. This study is aimed at evaluating the versatility of this flap in reconstructing various maxillofacial defects.

Method: Patients who underwent temporalis myofascial flap reconstruction following resection of the lesion in the maxillofacial region or the resection of ankylotic mass in the temporomandibular joint, from January 2005 to March 2007, were evaluated and analyzed. A chart review was performed under various parameters to assess the behavior of the flap intraoperative and postoperatively, for the 19 consecutive patients. The assessment of flap was also done under various parameters in patients' perspective.

Results: The technique provided a safe and rapid solution for intraoral reconstruction. In all patients the viability of the flap was maintained with no evidence of total or partial necrosis of the flap. There was no esthetic or functional morbidity at the donor site, except for minimal to moderate evident depression at the temporal fossa region in 37 % cases. The flap maintained its viability after radiation therapy in all patients undergoing the same.

Conclusion: The temporalis myofascial flap proves to be a simple, reliable and versatile flap for reconstruction of moderate to large sized defects of the maxillofacial region, without any significant esthetic or functional donor site morbidity.