
V-shaped flap reconstruction for a supra-alar groove defect



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SURGICAL CHALLENGE

The nose is a complex anatomic region for surgical reconstruction, as it is divided up into several aesthetic subunits. The supra-alar groove is considered a special location because of the convergence of various subunits. Selection of the correct reconstructive technique is required to achieve optimum results. We present a case of a surgical defect in the supra-alar groove after the removal of basal cell carcinoma as a surgical challenge (Fig 1).



Fig 1. **A**, Basal cell carcinoma in the right supra-alar groove. **B**, Defect after conventional surgery.

SOLUTION

A V-shaped incision, with lines parallel and equal in length to the longest axis of the defect, was performed (Fig 2, A). The incision was carried down to the subdermal plane at a suitable distance from the defect to ensure the viability of the flap. A tunnel was made by blunt dissection to connect the V-shaped incision to the surgical defect (Fig 2, B). After linear closure of the primary defect was performed, the secondary defect was sutured by the V-Y method to enable tissue advancement and minimize tension over the suture line (Fig 2, C).

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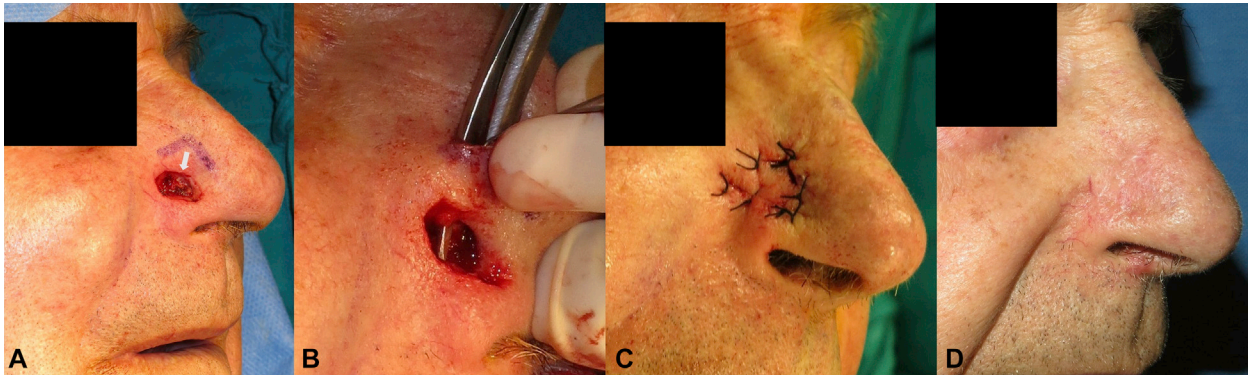


Fig 2. **A**, V-shaped flap design in the right sidewall (*arrow* shows movement of flap). **B**, Dissection between the V-incision and the surgical defect in the subdermal tissue plane. **C**, Early postoperative result. **D**, At the 2-month follow-up, complete preservation of the anatomy in the supra-alar groove.

Direct closure of surgical defects in the supra-alar groove usually result in alar retraction or nasal asymmetry. For this reason, cutaneous flaps are required. The V-shaped flap is a simple procedure that yields excellent aesthetic and functional results (Fig 2, D) with little skin movement. In our case, this method enabled re-creation of the groove and hiding of the scar.

In conclusion, we report a V-shaped flap for reconstruction of small-to-medium sized defects located at the supra-alar groove.