

## Plate 129

## Scrotal Flap Technique

### DESCRIPTION

The surface area of the scrotum varies considerably in individual dogs. In older intact males, the scrotum can be pendulous, whereas in younger castrated dogs, the surface area can be relatively small. The scrotum can be advanced as a flap into adjacent problematic skin defects. The vascular supply to the scrotum is derived from the collateral cutaneous blood supply, perineal branches of the external pudendal artery, and cremasteric artery. The ventral scrotal artery and dorsal scrotal artery anastomose to supply the overlying scrotal tissue. These vascular branches course along the cranioventral surface of the testis, superficial to the common vaginal tunic. Branches of the scrotal artery can be identified and preserved during flap elevation.

### SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- (A) Ventral view of the scrotum and adjacent inguinal area. A skin defect is noted lateral to the scrotum.
- (B) Close-up view of the scrotum and adjacent cutaneous wound. An incision is made at the adjacent base of the scrotum. To preserve circulation, at least one-quarter of the circumference should be preserved. Preservation of vascular branches supplying the scrotal tissue also is desirable. In this illustration, the small area of skin interposed between the flap and wound bed (large dashed lines) can be excised to facilitate scrotal advancement.
- (C) Progressive elevation of the scrotal flap. The dartos and fascia can be carefully dissected from the scrotal skin if necessary to improve flap advancement and coverage of the skin defect.
- (D) Completion of the closure.

### COMMENTS

The use of the scrotum as a source of skin for wound closure has been reported in the human literature. Although castration can be performed using a prescrotal incision, elevation of the scrotal flap will give the surgeon direct access to each testicle. This technique should be kept in mind when a problematic wound involves the adjacent perineum, inner thigh, or cutaneous region anterior to the scrotum.

Plate 129

