

Plate 41

Direct Flap: Single Pedicle (Hinge) Flap

DESCRIPTION

The hinge flap is a single pedicle, direct flap generally used to close limb defects at or below the elbow or knee. (It is rarely used to resurface large defects involving the pinna.) The base of this pedicle graft can be positioned dorsally or ventrally on the middle to lower lateral region of the thorax or abdomen. The affected limb is elevated to the trunk and the defect positioned beneath the flap.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

- (A) The affected limb is lifted up to the lateral surface of the trunk to determine the proper location for flap development. The width of the flap equals the dorsoventral borders of the defect, including any epithelialized wound borders that require excision. An additional 1 or 2 cm is added to this measurement to offset elastic contraction and stretching of the flap associated with limb placement. The flap is carefully drawn onto the skin of the donor site. Flap length is determined from the desired location of the flap base to the most distant edge of the defect. A cloth template is useful to determine this measurement.
- (B) The flap is incised and elevated beneath the cutaneous trunci muscle. The donor bed is partially closed. Epithelialized wound borders are excised to assure complete flap coverage of the entire defect.
- (C) The flap is sutured to the wound borders.

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