

Plate 39

Rotation Flap

DESCRIPTION

The rotation flap is a semicircular flap most commonly used for closing triangular defects. In humans, the incision arc is four times the length required to rotate the flap into the defect. In veterinary practice, a curved incision is created in a stepwise fashion, and the flap is undermined until it covers the wound without excessive tension.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

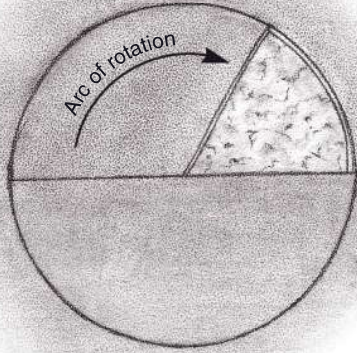
- (A) Skin tension is assessed by grasping the adjacent skin between the thumb and index finger. The rotational flap will be positioned to take full advantage of this loose skin. A marking pen can be used to draw a circle that incorporates the triangular wound.
- (B) The skin is incised over the outlined semicircle and undermined in increments until the flap rotates and stretches over the defect without undue tension.
- (C) The flap is secured with a simple interrupted sutured pattern.

COMMENTS

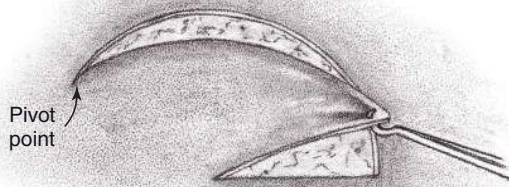
The rotation flap in design and execution combines the properties of the transposition flap and advancement flap: skin rotates and stretches to close the triangular wound without creating a secondary defect requiring a separate closure. A variation of the rotation flap usage includes paired rotation flaps created on each side of a wide triangular defect (a variation of H-plasty employing two single pedicle advancement flaps).

Similarly, two rotation flaps can be employed to close rectangular areas by closing the two triangular surface areas formed by a diagonal line across opposing corners of the defect. Because of the loose elastic skin in the dog and cat, most rotation flaps do not require complete elevation of the arc outlined with the marking pen. The author finds no particular advantage in the use of this technique over the transposition flap.

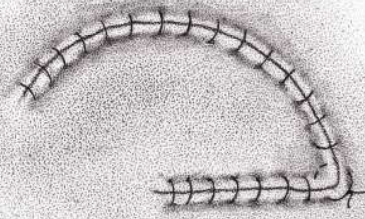
Plate 39



A



B



C