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Technique for Complex Rhinoplasty: The Weck Blade Facilitate the Carving of Costal Cartilage Grafts
Mission: Repurpose Forgotten Blades

Letter to the Editor

Precise Reduction of Dorsal Septal Cartilage in Rhinoplasty: No. 12 Blade With Bayonet Forceps

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All Rhinoplasty is Complex

Complex Rhinoplasty Defined - requires extra-nasal cartilage grafts to achieve goals due to the absence of sufficient septal cartilage.
Insufficient Septal Cartilage

- Prior isolated septoplasty
- Secondary rhinoplasty
- H/O significant septal trauma
- Some cleft rhinoplasty/congenital deformities
Context: Weck Blade Use

- Carving rhinoplasty cartilage grafts from costal cartilage for complex rhinoplasty
- Use it for all graft carving (spetal/conchal) when long straight cut required
Thesis Statement

• The weck blade facilitate the carving of costal cartilage grafts
  – Used without guard
Inherent Qualities of Weck Blade

- Thin
- Long
- Straight edge
- Recessed handle
Inherent Qualities of Traditional Alternatives (10, 11, 15, 20)

- Thicker
- Shorter
- Rounded cutting surface (except 11)
- Inline handle
## Comparison of Action

### Weck
- Chop/Chop slice (str/Ing)
- Simultaneous graft cut (Ing)
- Better hand position (RH)
- True cut (thin)

### 10,11,15,20
- Slice/Drag (rnd/short)
- Sequential cut (rnd/short)
- Awkward hand position (IH)
- Cut/split (thicker)
Benefits

• Precision in cutting long thin grafts that are straight with parallel cuts
  – Spreader, lateral crus, columellar strut, alar rim

• Chopping/Mincing
  – Turkish Delight and variations
Series

- 49 Rhinoplasties
- 21 costal cartilage grafts
Patients/Indications

• 12 adults
  – 1 secondary cleft
  – Remainder: secondary rhino > post-septo

• 9 adolescents
  – 7 cleft
  – 2 post-speto
Costal Grafts

- Spreader & alar rim – all
- Columellar strut – 15 (12 with non-anchored threaded k-wire core)
- Lateral crus graft – 17 (either uni or bi)
Thin Slices
Columellar Strut: Close to Wire
Clarification

• Columellar strut with k-wire: non-anchored core-only threaded wire to prevent warping
  – Core-only = no exposed wire
Costal-Sourced Extra-Anatomic
Costal Spreader Grafts
Costal Lat. Crural Grafts
Full Set
Complex Rhino with Costal Cart (Prior Septoplasty)
Complex Post Traumatic Rhino with Costal Cart
Of Interest:
Post Lefort I (Patrick Kelley, MD)
Complex Secondary Rhino With Costal Cart
Complex Cleft Rhino (2nd) with Costal Cart
Tertiary Rhinoplasty with Costal Cart.
Secondary Cleft
Complications

• None directly attributable to Weck blade
• Infection - 1
• Revisions - 2 cleft patients
Summary

• Facilitates carving of long thin grafts
  – mm at a time all at once
• Symmetric
• Straight edges
• Precision
  – LLC
  – Columellar strut
Submitted for Publication

• Aesthetic Surgery Journal
Thank You

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