



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

BRIDGE FLAPS AND HOW TO DO THEM

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Background : Reconstruction of the forehead and scalp after tumour extirpation can at times be challenging due to tightness of the surrounding soft tissues, a lack of soft tissue reservoir, fragility of the dermis and loss of galea and and/or periosteum . Our use of Keystone flaps led us to develop the Bridge Flap as a hybrid type of bipedicle flap having a chimeric vascular supply.

Observations : The various forms of the Bridge Flap are demonstrated. The author draws from his experience of over 200 Bridge Flaps to demonstrate the correct choice of each chimera (depending on defect properties, location and patient variables) and the key points in its execution. Complications to date are discussed in full.

Key Message : This flap has utility in many closures on the face and scalp. It is simple to perform, reliable and aesthetic.

