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Nasal columella reconstruction: A review of the current techniques

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Introduction: Modern surgical techniques use a subunit principal to nasal reconstruction. The nasal columella is one of the most challenging subunits to reconstruct. There many procedures described in the literature. As such this paper aims to describe the techniques present in existing literature, the circumstances under which they are indicated, their advantages and shortcomings.

Materials & Methods: We performed a thorough literature search on Pub-med up to and including all papers published in July 2015. The key-words used included “nasal columella” and “reconstruction”. This search criterion revealed 41 articles. After searching through these and their references we were able to identify 10 different techniques.

Discussion: As mentioned above there are ten techniques described in the literature for the reconstruction of the isolated nasal columella defect. These techniques include a wide range of operative procedures including, local flaps, skin grafts and free flaps. They vary in complexity and some require multiple operations. Each has advantages and disadvantages as described by the authors and knowledge of the techniques available will aid pre-operative planning.

Conclusion: In this article we have presented the surgical methods that have been published in the literature for columella reconstruction and the variety of the techniques demonstrates that not one technique is considered the best. The choice of technique depends on the extent of the defect and patient's choice as well as the surgical expertise. This article provides the surgeons with a collection of the methods that they can add to their armamentarium of surgical techniques when dealing with columella reconstruction.

Biography

Jonathan R Abbas completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Birmingham. From there, he went to foundation years 1 and 2 at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. He has published and presented multiple papers and just began his surgical training in Otolaryngology in the Northwestern Deanery, UK.

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