

FLAP AND SKIN GRAFT INFORMATION SHEET

Revere Esthetique

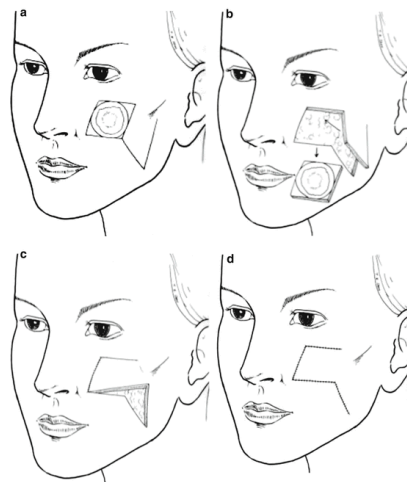
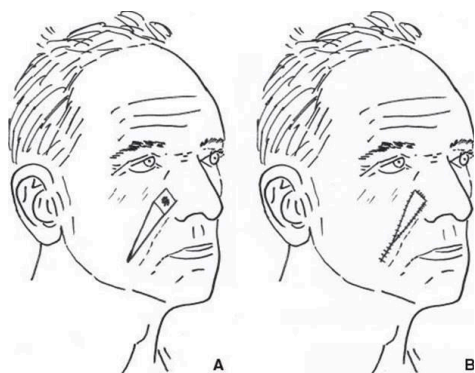
What is a flap?

Flap is a piece of tissue in the body which has a blood supply. When there is a wound on the body or surgery performed to remove say a skin lesion or cancer-there will be a defect which needs to be filled. There are different options to do this, with the flap providing an excellent method of closing the wound.

The big advantage of flap is the robust blood supply and a better contour. This makes healing a lot better in the area.

How is the flap done? The flap is typically taken from the area next to the wound, so it is a local flap. This is stretched/pulled/rotated across into the wound and the area from where it is taken is closed. This stretched flap tissue is sewn or stapled into the wound to provide full coverage and healing. The diagrams are illustrative

Wound care is minimal and generally healing is good. Long term care is necessary for getting a good scar.



What is a skin graft?

This is a piece of skin which is cut out of the body and placed on a wound or site of excision. It does not have its own blood supply and has a different contour from a flap. Skin graft can be of two basic types:

1. **Splint thickness skin graft**—this is typically a 'graze' from the thigh and is much like a bad road rash. The area from where the skin is taken will heal typically in 2-3wks time but is more painful. This technique can provide a large piece of skin for reconstruction.



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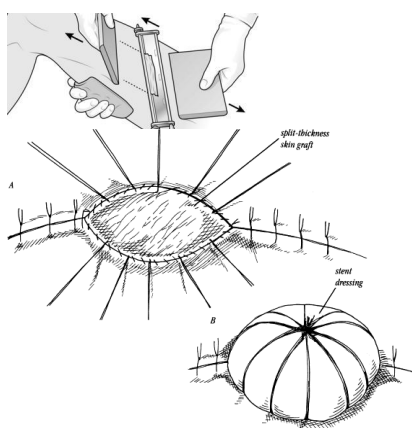
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2. **Full thickness skin graft**—this is typically taken from the neck or below the collar bone area. The site from where it is taken needs to be closed and this provides a limited amount of skin for reconstruction. Healing is different from a flap as a skin graft has no blood supply of its own and is fully reliant on the wound bed to attach in and take completely.

The after care of the skin graft is more involved. There are two areas which need to heal:

1. Donor site—the area from where skin graft is taken
2. Recipient site—the area to which the skin graft is placed to cover wound

SPLIT THICKNESS SKIN GRAFTING



FULL THICKNESS SKIN GRAFTING

