

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH HEAD AND NECK SOCIETY

Title: Case Report: Reconstruction of Labial Commissure, Lip and Buccal Mucosa following Resection of Recurrent Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a Previously Irradiated Field

Body: Background: 70-year-old female previously treated for Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) of the right mandible and right labial commissure presents with a non-healing ulcer on the right labial mucosa extending to the maxillary alveolus. Reconstruction following resection of the SCC poses a significant challenge due to previous radiotherapy associated with treatment of the SCC on the right labial commissure, a field needed in reconstruction of the resected site. The aim of the patient's treatment being tumour resection, restoration of function and a level of aesthetic restoration.

Methods: Careful consideration of reconstructive flap in this case was needed due to the compromised vascularity of the previously irradiated tissue. A modified Karapandzic flap along with a V-Y flap and placement of Integra intraorally was the treatment modality of choice, conserving nerves, enhancing blood supply as well as providing adequate adaptation and functional restoration.

Results: The selected flaps provided majority stable wound healing, restored oral competence, and preserved speech and oral intake. The patient recovered without major complications.

Conclusion: Oral commissure reconstruction in previously irradiated patients requires meticulous flap selection to optimise vascularity and function. A tailored approach is essential to achieving functional and aesthetic outcomes while satisfying the primary objective of complete tumour excision.

Authors: Eva Danaher, Michael Gilbride, Akinsola Ogunbowale, Hamid Ramadan

Affiliations: