

## **Eyelid reconstruction: pediculated versus not pediculated**

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**Aim:** To compare the functional and cosmetical outcome of pediculated tarsal grafts versus free tarsal grafts, covered with free and/or pediculated skin grafts for eyelid reconstruction after malignancy removal.

**Material & Methods:** Twelve patients (7 male, 5 female), mean age 77 years, received an excision of at least half the lower lid up to the total lower and partially the temporal upper lid. In most cases 3/4 of the lower lid was removed (5 patients). For the reconstruction of the posterior lamella 5 times a mere pediculated and 3 times a mere free tarsal graft was used, a combination of both was needed in 3 cases. Mean closure time for pediculated grafts were 14 days.

**Results:** Histological results of the removed lids were 8 times a nodular and 4 times a superficial multicentric basal cell carcinoma. There was no difference in the functional outcome of the reconstructed tarsal area but well a cosmetic one in favor for an pediculated anterior lamella (8 versus 4). A mainly temporary effect of the pediculated tarsal grafts was an upper lid retraction in 5 cases whereof one needed surgery for release.

**Conclusion:** There is no advantage of pediculated tarsal grafts versus free tarsal grafts. The latter give nicer results with a pediculated anterior lamella and cause no impairment of eyelid closure. For closure two weeks are most sufficient, as tarsal grafts grow in fast when sutured to the surrounding carefully.