

## Microsurgery : From Basic Skill of Plastic Surgery to The Top of Reconstruction Ladder

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**F**or more than 5 decades, microvascular surgery has been growing and found its place in reconstructive surgery. In Indonesia, microsurgery became popular since 30 years ago. In the past, this subspecialty was developed for soft tissue transfer and replantation of amputated extremities.

The vast development of science and technology, as well as the increasing demand for functional reconstruction, has escalated the role of microsurgery to a higher level. Nowadays, its used on many procedure starting from simple tissue transfer, composite tissue transfer (eg. fibula osteocutaneous flap for mandibular reconstruction), facial allotransplantation, functional microvascular muscle transplantation (FMMT) to lymphedema reconstruction using free node transfer as a sucking pump generator.

Most reconstructive cases need a holistic treatment, which involve multi disciplinary intervention. In our institution, we have worked with many experts such as craniofacial-surgeon, neuro-surgeon, oncology-surgeon, otolaryngologist, oral-surgeon and othodontist. Microsurgery was considered as a main modality of treatment in dealing with chronic and complex wound. The outcome was significantly improved in the matter of over all result, appearance and the length of stay. Even though this procedure still demand a higher technical skill and time consuming.

One of the option for novice microsurgeon to close large defect is using radial forearm free flaps with larger vascular diameter making it easier to perform the anastomosis and high successful result.

The success rate depends on the basic core of plastic surgery: planning the design, making a rundown, preparing the life boat, meticulous technique, timing of surgery, a good teamwork and interdisciplinary communication. Repetitive training on microvascular technique also plays an important factor to master microsurgery. It is not an exclusive field, it is only a matter of patience and will, routine training, and hard-work will pay off. "Trust your self, you know more than you think you do.

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