

Comparative study of three series of neuro-cutaneous flaps used for coverage of leg defects

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The purpose of the trial was to compare three groups of neuro-cutaneous flaps used to cover defects in the calf, in terms of preoperative characteristics and postoperative results. The main objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of surgical method by testing the hypothesis: neurocutaneous flaps can be applied with clinical results comparable to other surgical methods. The results were presented in the text, through graphic figures and tables. Statistical comparisons were performed according to the results obtained from three series of neurocutaneous flaps in terms of demographic characteristics and those describing postoperative results. The results obtained in the three types of flaps were compared with studies published by other authors, confirming the working hypothesis. The most important results are: the neurocutaneous sural flap is a distal pedicled flap with increased vascular resistance; age and co-morbidities may influence the degree of immediate complications but not the final success rate; the covered defect surface ($p = 0.035$) is higher for the sural and saphenous flap; the number of days of hospitalization is significantly lower than for microsurgical transfer flaps ($p = 0.022$). The frequency of complications and reintervention rates were similar ($p = 0.022$). The study concludes that the sural neurocutaneous flap can be used to cover defects of up to 200 cm² in the calf with similar results to those of microsurgical transfer flaps.

Key words: leg defects, neurocutaneous flap

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