

Current surgical techniques: New techniques in nerve grafting in the head and neck.

Authors: Weed D.T., Burkey B.B.

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Abstract:

Surgery of the peripheral nerve presents a frustrating challenge to the head and neck surgeon with regard to satisfactory functional outcomes. The majority of recent reports in this field are experimental animal studies examining outcomes with regard to type of nerve repair and factors that may influence the successful neurorrhaphy. Other areas of interest include selection and harvest techniques for suitable nerve grafts when a primary anastomosis is not feasible. Alternatives to primary neurorrhaphy or grafting with nerve interposition, such as nerve crossover techniques or free tissue transfer with microvascular and microneural anastomoses, have also been the focus of recent studies. A review of this literature is presented.