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# Vascular Anomalies – High Flow Lesions



**Julian J. Pribaz, M.D.**

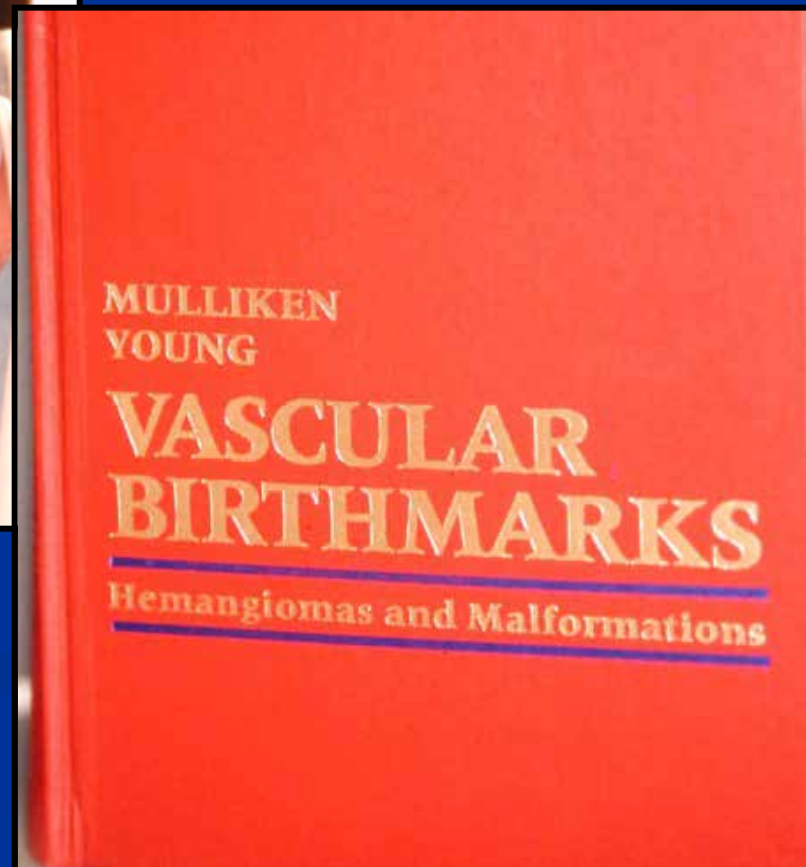
# Nomenclature of **vascular anomalies** remains problematical in general medical community....

**Tumors**

v

**Malformations**





# Vascular Anomalies: Confusing Terminology

## 1. Tumors

### Biological Name

### Incorrect Term

n Infantile Hemangioma	⇒	n 'Strawberry Hemangioma' 'Capillary Hemangioma' 'Cavernous Hemangioma'
n Congenital Hemangioma	⇒	n Infantile Hemangioma
n Hemangioendothelioma	⇒	n 'Capillary Hemangioma'
n Pyogenic Granuloma	⇒	n 'Hemangioma'

# Vascular Anomalies: Confusing Terminology

## 2. Malformations

### Biological Name

### Incorrect Term

n Capillary Malformation	⇒	“Port-wine stain” “Capillary hemangioma”
n Lymphatic Malformation	⇒	“Cystic hygroma” “Lymphangioma”
n Venous Malformation	⇒	“Cavernous hemangioma”
n Arteriovenous Malformation	⇒	“Arteriovenous hemangioma”

# Vascular Anomalies-

## Biological Classification:

### Clinical & Endothelial Characteristics

#### Hemangiomas v Malformations

- n Proliferating phase

- n Involuting phase

- n Capillary

- n Venous

- n Arterial

- n Lymphatic

- n AV Fistulae(AVM)

# International Society for Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) 1996

## Tumors

Hemangioma  
Hemangioendotheliomas  
Angiosarcoma  
Miscellaneous

## Malformations

### Slow-Flow

Capillary

Lymphatic

Venous

### Fast-Flow

Arterial

Combined



# Vascular Anomalies 2: Malformations –slow flow

Capillary Malformation (CM)



Lymphatic Malformation (LM)

*Microcystic & Macrocystic  
Lymphedema*



Venous Malformation (VM)



Combined – CVM, CLM, CLVM, LVM

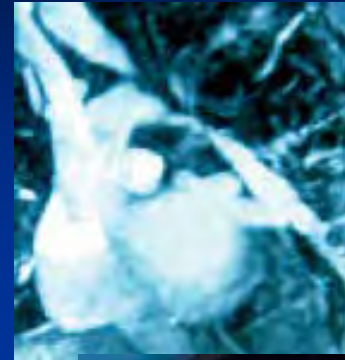


# Vascular Anomalies 2:

## Malformations –Fast flow

### Arterial Malformation (AM)

*Aneurysm, Atresia, Ectasia, Stenosis*



### Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM)



### Combined

*CAVM, CLAVM*



# Epidemiology of Vascular Anomalies

## General Population

Hemangioma (~4%)

Malformations (~0.5%)

## Referral to Vascular Anomalies Center

### Boston Childrens Hospital (n=5621)

#### Tumors (35.2% (n=1976))

Infantile Hemangioma 85.9%

Hemangioendotheliomas 7.8%

Congenital Hemangioma 5.4%

Pyogenic Granuloma 0.9%

#### Malformations (64.8% (n=3645))

Venous 36.8%

Lymphatic 28.3%

Arteriovenous 14.3%

Capillary 11.0%

Combined 9.6%

# AVMs of Head and Neck

- n Poorly understood
- n Difficult to treat



**Arteriovenous Malformation of The Head and Neck:  
Natural History and Management**

**Kohout, M.P., Hansen, M., Pribaz, J.J, Mulliken, J.B.  
P.R.S. 102: 643-654 (1998)**



# Results overview

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- ü 81 Patients (33M : 48F)
- ü M:F = 1 : 1.5
- ü Age at presentation: 3 months – 66 years
- ü Mean follow-up = 4.6 years

# Clinical Presentation & Course

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## *Depends On:*

- « Position, size, number, length of abnormal AV connections
- « Hemodynamics
  - high flow
  - low flow

# Progression of AVM



Age 16



Age 22



Age 34

# Progression of AVM



Newborn



Age 5



Age 10



Age 16



# AVM – Head and Neck

## Age of Onset

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Birth	-	59% (M>F)**
Childhood	-	10% (F>M)
Adolescence	-	10% (F>M)
Adult	-	21% (F>M)

# AVM – Head and Neck Distribution

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**Midface** - **69%\*\***

**Upper 1/3** - **14%**

**Lower 1/3** - **17%**

# Schobinger Clinical Staging at Presentation

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<b>STAGE I</b> (Quiescence)	<b>27%</b>
<b>STAGE II</b> (Expansion)	<b>36%</b>
<b>STAGE III</b> (Destruction)	<b>36%</b>
<b>STAGE IV</b> (Decompensation)	<b>1%</b>

# AVM – Causes of Ulceration

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1. **Arterial ischemia**
    - prox "steal"
  2. **Venous hypertension**
    - (like VVs)
    - fibrinogen leak
    - precapillary fibrin cuffing
- ↓ perfusion of O<sub>2</sub> & nutrients  
(Barnard & Browse, 1982)
3. **Trauma**
  4. **2° ill-advised XRT, sclerotherapy, prox lig**



**Ischemic ulcers –very painful**

# **Clinical Presentation**

**Asymptomatic**

- n Mass**
- n Deformity**
- n Bruit**

**stable**



**Symptomatic**

- n Pain**
- n Bleeding**
- n Ulceration**

**progressive**

# Precipitating Factors - AVM

---

- Trauma**
- 2 falls
  - 14 iatrogenic insults (bx, lig, exc)

- Puberty**  
F > M
- 8 started (2M, 6F)
  - 6/31 expanded (2M, 4F)

- Pregnancy**
- 4 started
  - 11 expanded – esp late onset AVM
  - aggressive
  - partial resolution post partum.

**Timing of surgical treatment depends on severity of symptoms.**

# Treatment

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**Asymptomatic**

**observe**

**Symptomatic/  
& Deformity**

→ **treat**

**(a) small AVM**

→ **wide local excision**

**(b) large AVM**

→ **selective embolization  
resection (2-14d later)  
& reconstruction**

**Patients are usually young &  
have very high expectations**



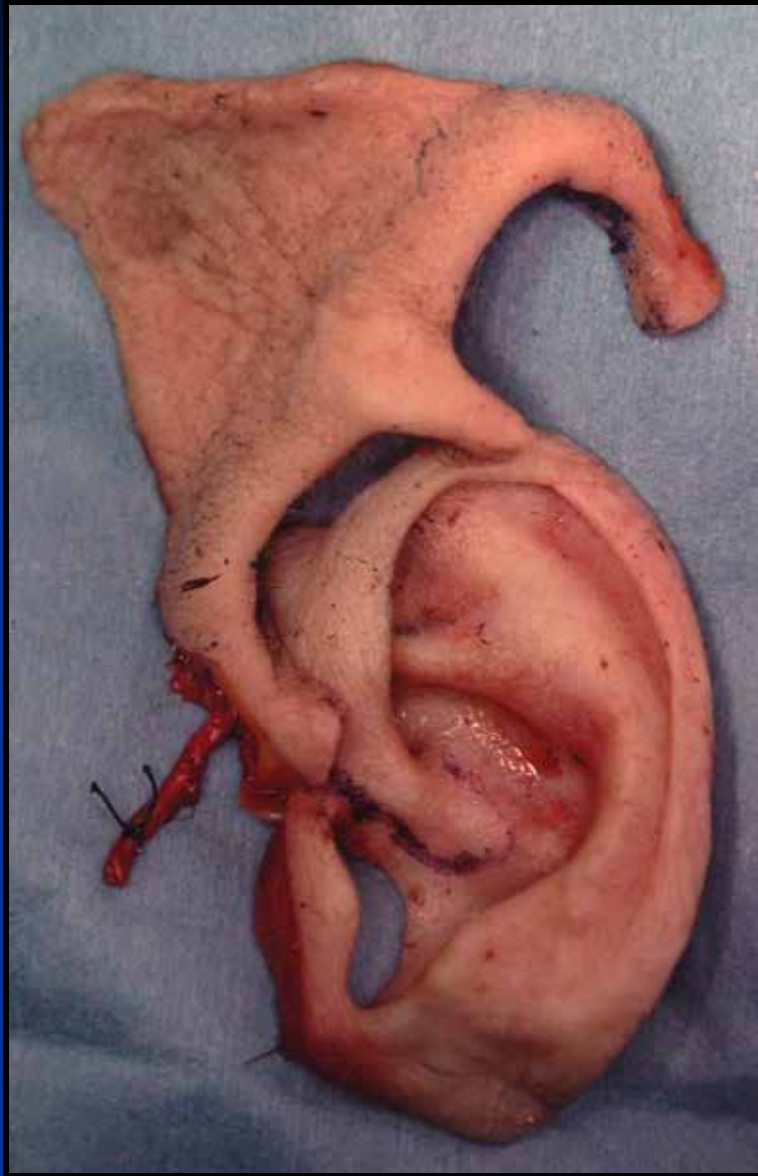
# SMALL AVM

## Reconstruction with laminated free flap



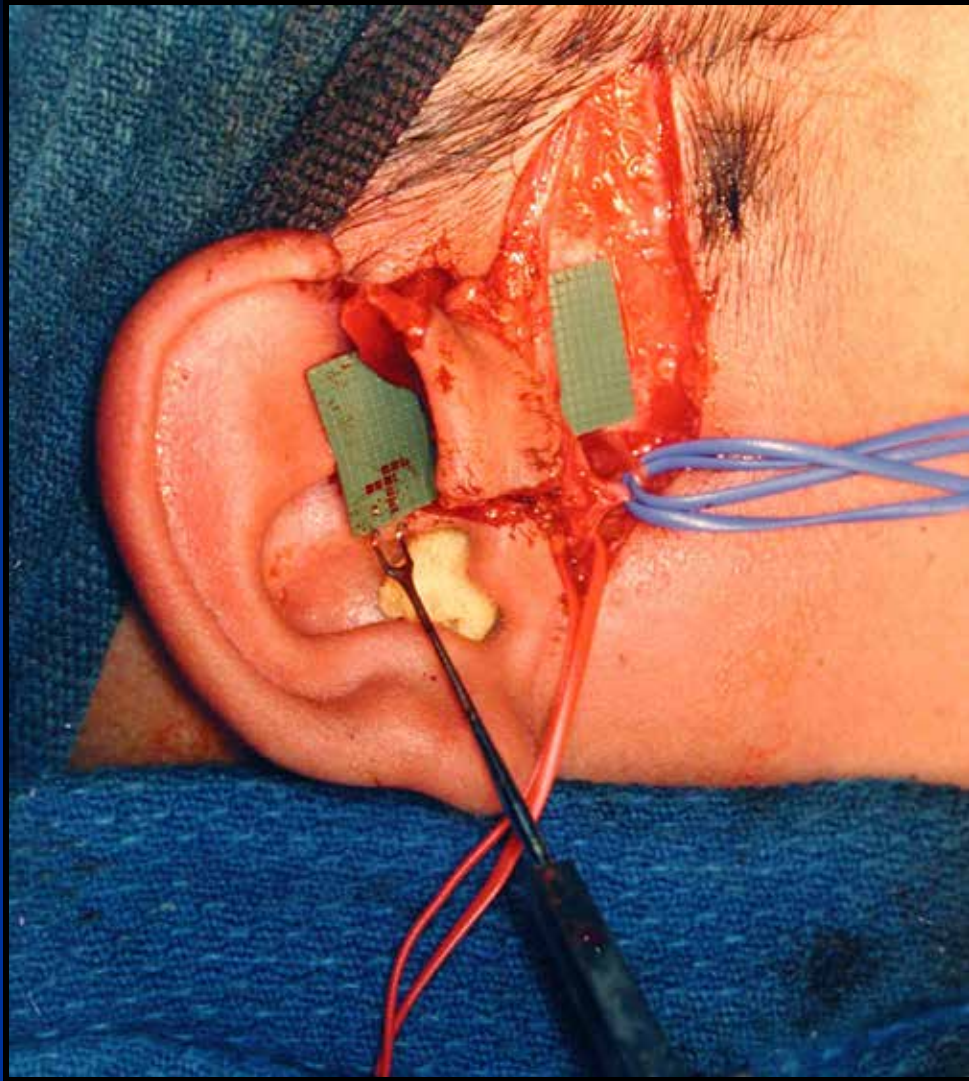
5M – AVM (L) ALAR





Cadaver dissection of nose & ear

- ascending helix of ear  $\odot$  distal heminasal reconstruction



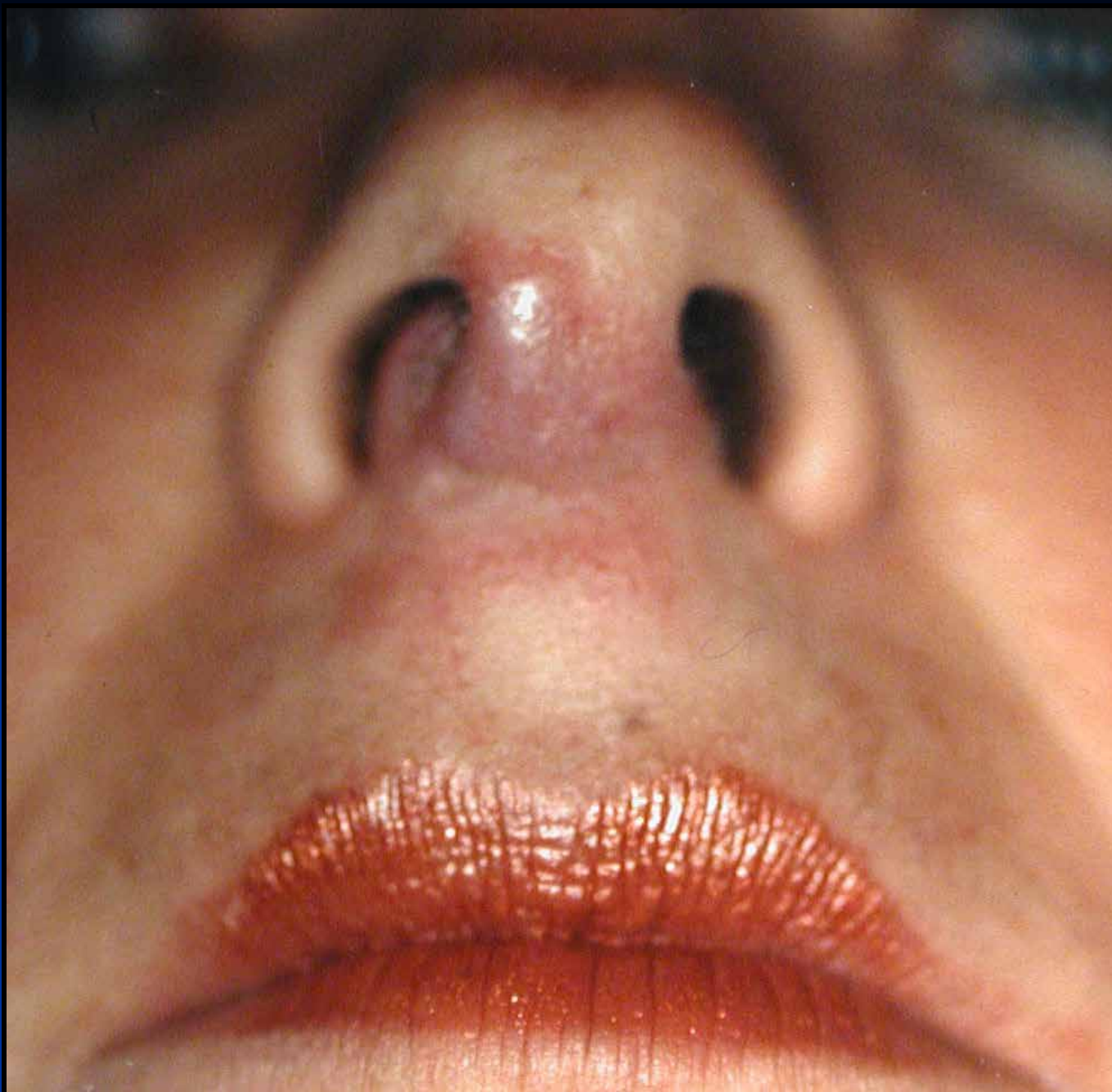
Ascending helical flap dissection  
based on sup. temporal vessels



Flap transfer  
Anastomosis to facial A&V



6 months post op



**AVM of nose & upper lip**

# 41F AVM of nose & upper lip



**AVM resection**



**Bone wax model of defect**



**Ascending helical flap from (R) ear to columella**





**6 months post op**



# **Prior Treatment of AVMs 50%**

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**Steroids**

**Irradiation**

**Laser**

**Embolization**

**Subtotal resection**



# Investigation of AVM

---

**Doppler ultrasound**

**MRI (soft tissue)**

**CT (bone)**

**Angiography**

**MRA**

# Treatment of AVMs of Head and Neck

## TEAM APPROACH

### Embolization

Reduces  
bleeding,  
not extent of  
resection

### Resection

?Cure/Control

### Reconstruction

Restore  
appearance  
and function

# Problems with AVM Treatment in Head and Neck

## Embolization/Excision – I

- ☉ ? Endothelial injury from embolization
- ☉ Blood loss (esp. bone)
- ☉ ? Complete excision

## Excision Margins

- ☉ Bleeding pattern
- ☉ Doppler
- ☉ ? Histology



# Problems with AVM Treatment in Head and Neck

## Embolization/Excision – II

- e Massive defect
- e Complex 3D defects
- e Young patients
- e Complications from previous Mx (prox lig. XRT)

# AVM

? Proximal ligation of AVM – ineffective

prox. ligation



distal ischemia



↑ collaterals

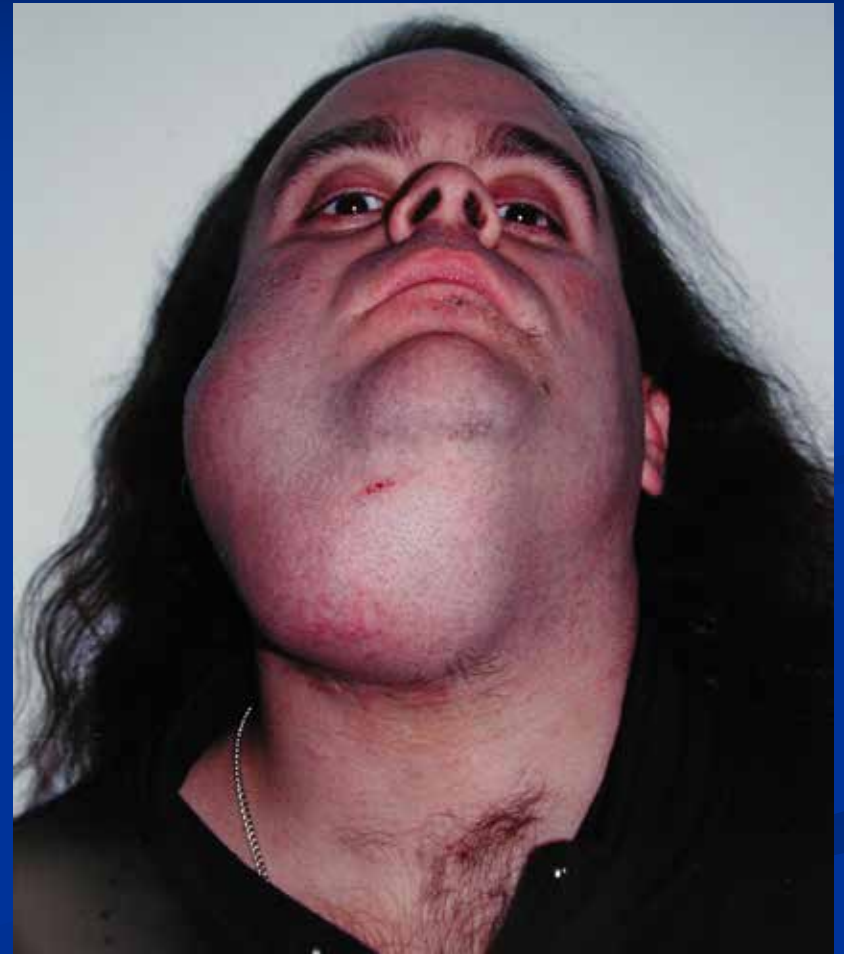


↑ flow through fistula

**AVM**

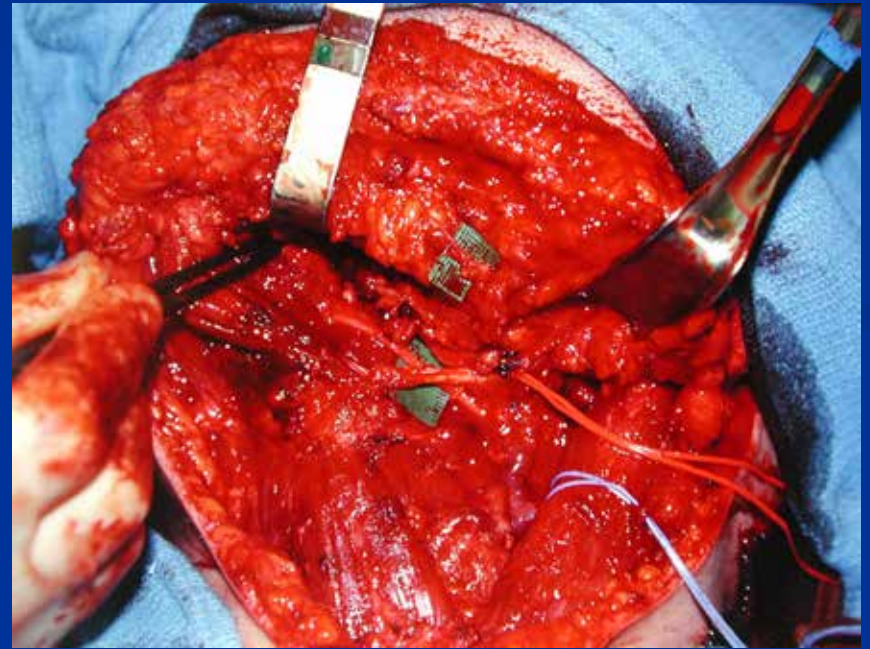
**Localized**

# Localized low flow AVM



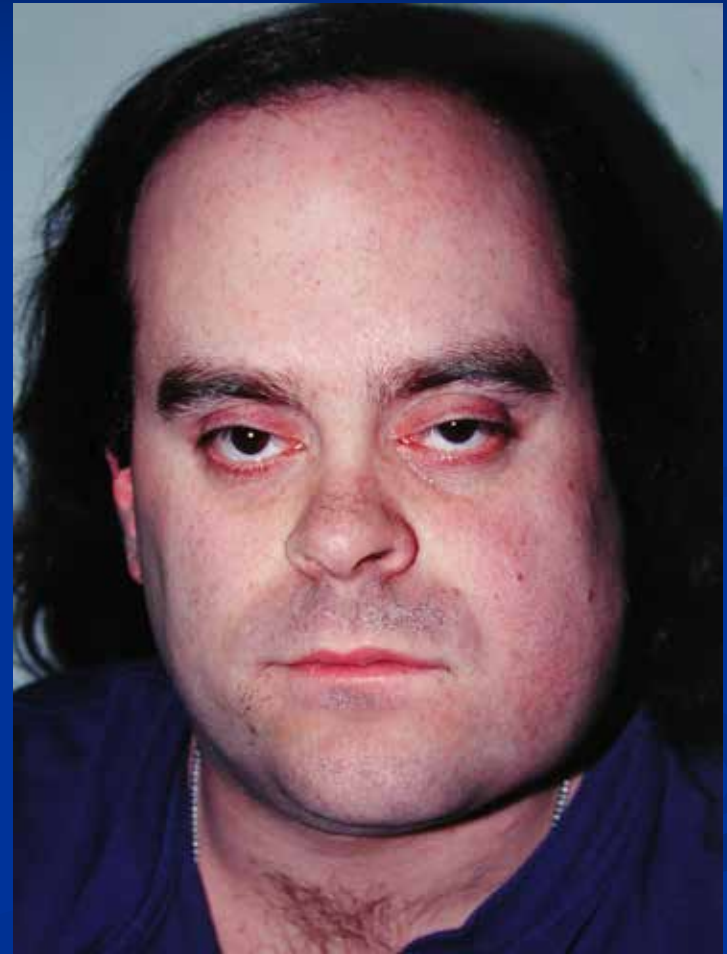
(reversed)

# Wide excision AVM





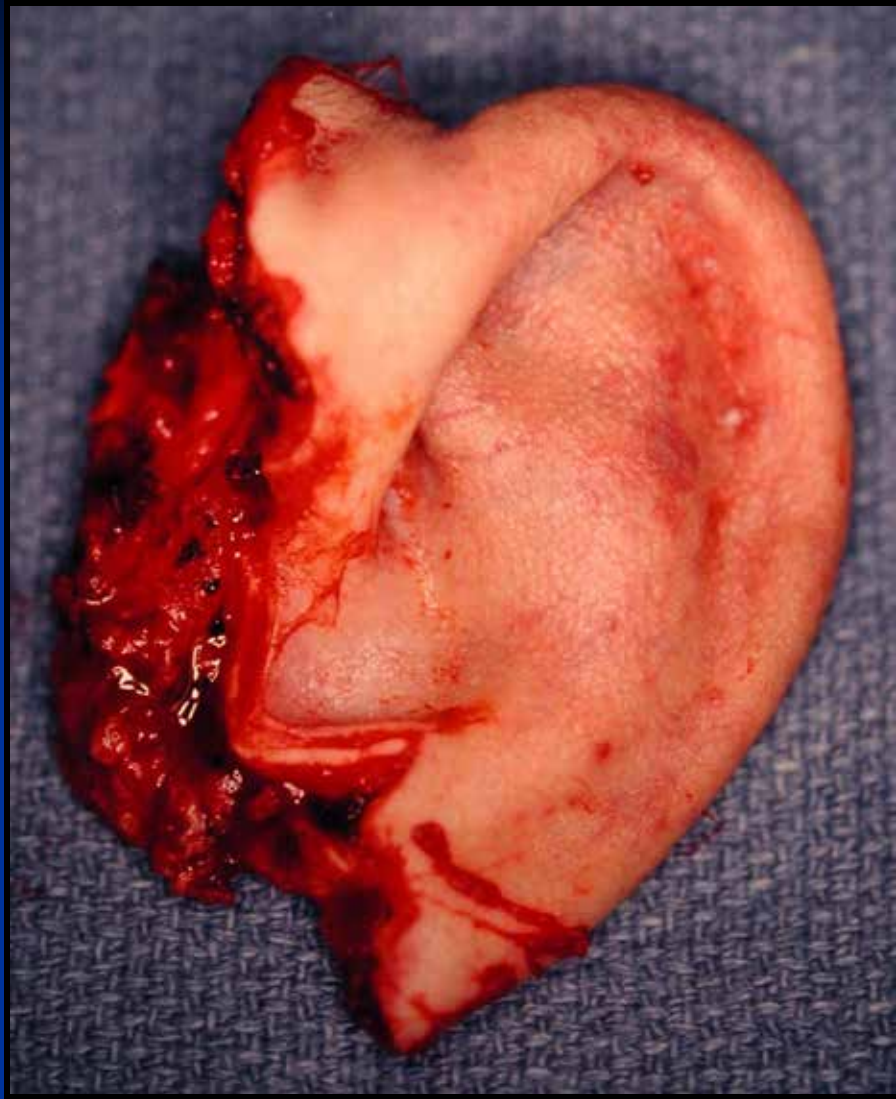
# Post operative



# Localized high flow AVM



15 yr old male with AVM of ear



**Resected AVM of ear**



**Avascular auricular  
cartilage free of AVM**

Ear cartilage  
reattached and  
TPF flap applied





**FTSG over TPF flap**



**9 months post op**

# Extensive low flow AVM



# Post embolization



Early post operative after  
radical debulking of  
low flow AVM



**preoperative**

**After 2 debulking procedures  
of low flow AVM**





# Radical excisions of high flow AVMs



create complex defects



# **Reconstruction of Complex Defects with Tailored Free Flaps**

## *Techniques:*

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### **n Modeling**

- alginate

### **n Flap manipulation**

- tissue expander
- compound flap on 1 pedicle
- folded flaps

### **n Staged reconstruction**

- 2° local pedicle flaps
- prelaminated flaps

# Problems with AVM Treatment in Head and Neck

## Free Flap Reconstruction - I

### e Recipient vessel injury

(prox. lig & embolization injury)

### e Complex 3D flap reconstruction

- laminated
- prelaminated
- preexpanded
- folded
- staged

# Problems with AVM Treatment in Head and Neck

## Free Flap Reconstruction - II

### e Functional restoration

Muscle

Bone/teeth

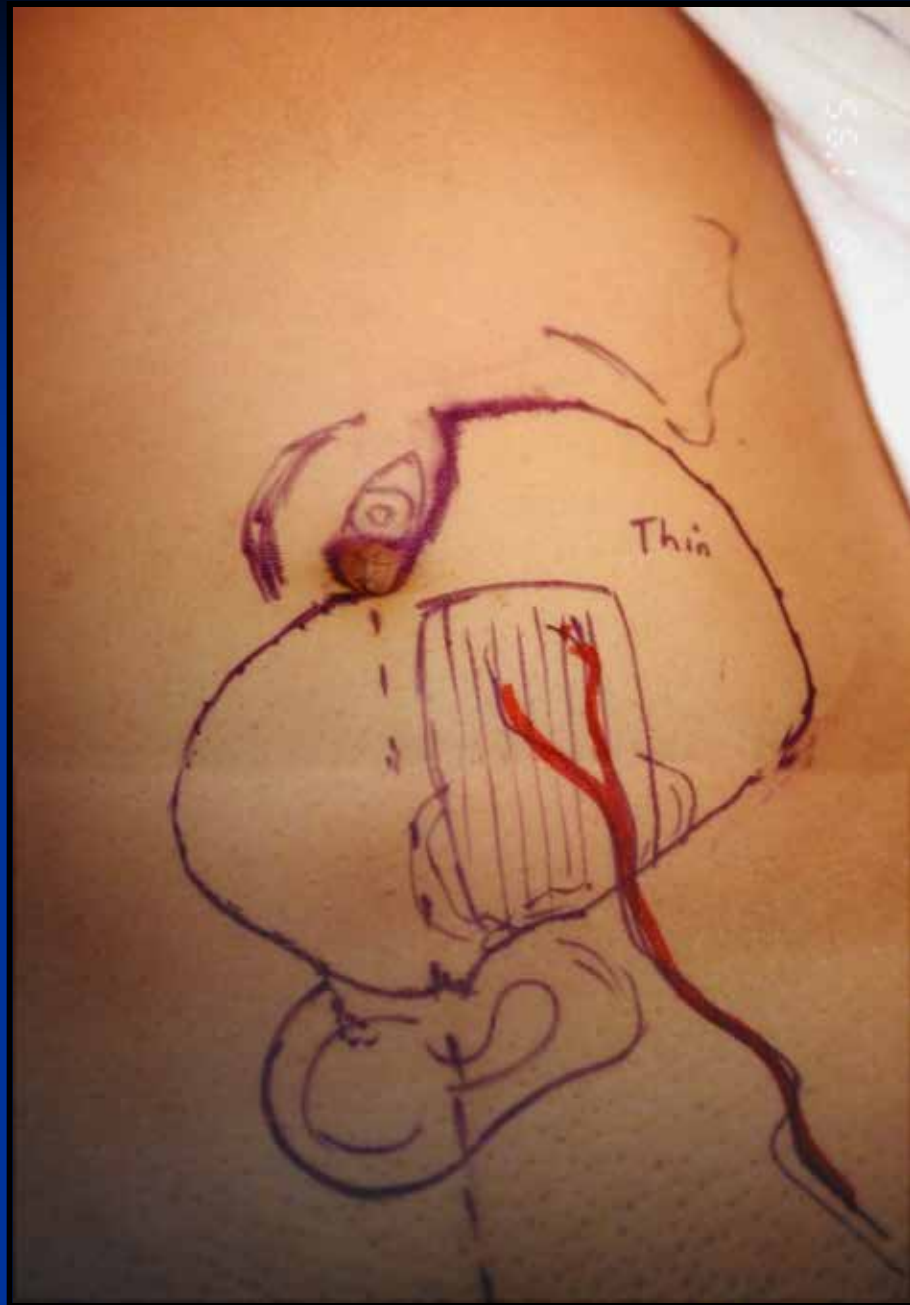
### e Aesthetic refinements

Multiple revisions

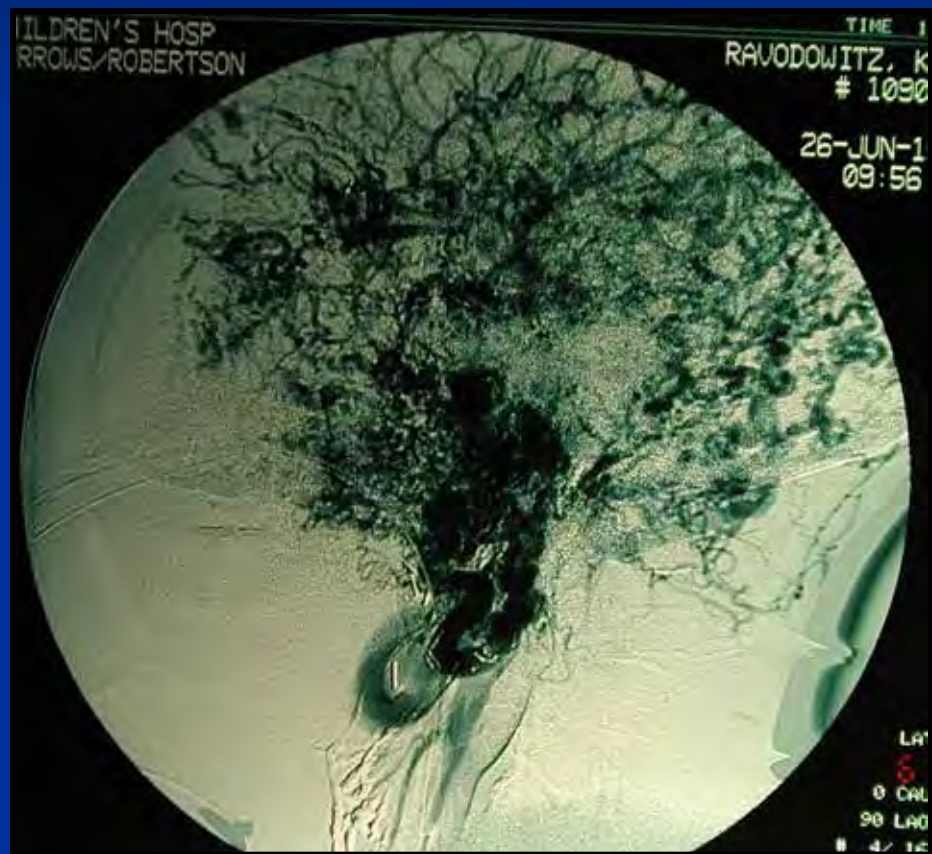
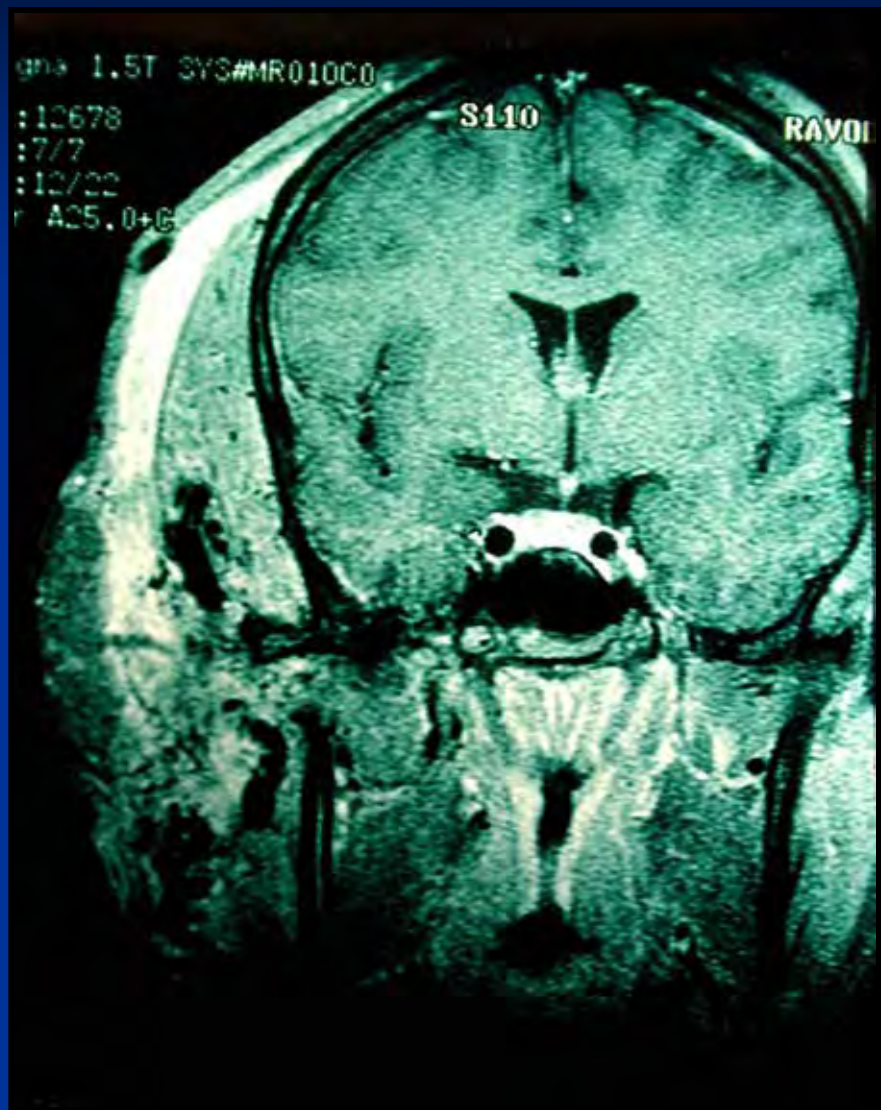
Local flaps



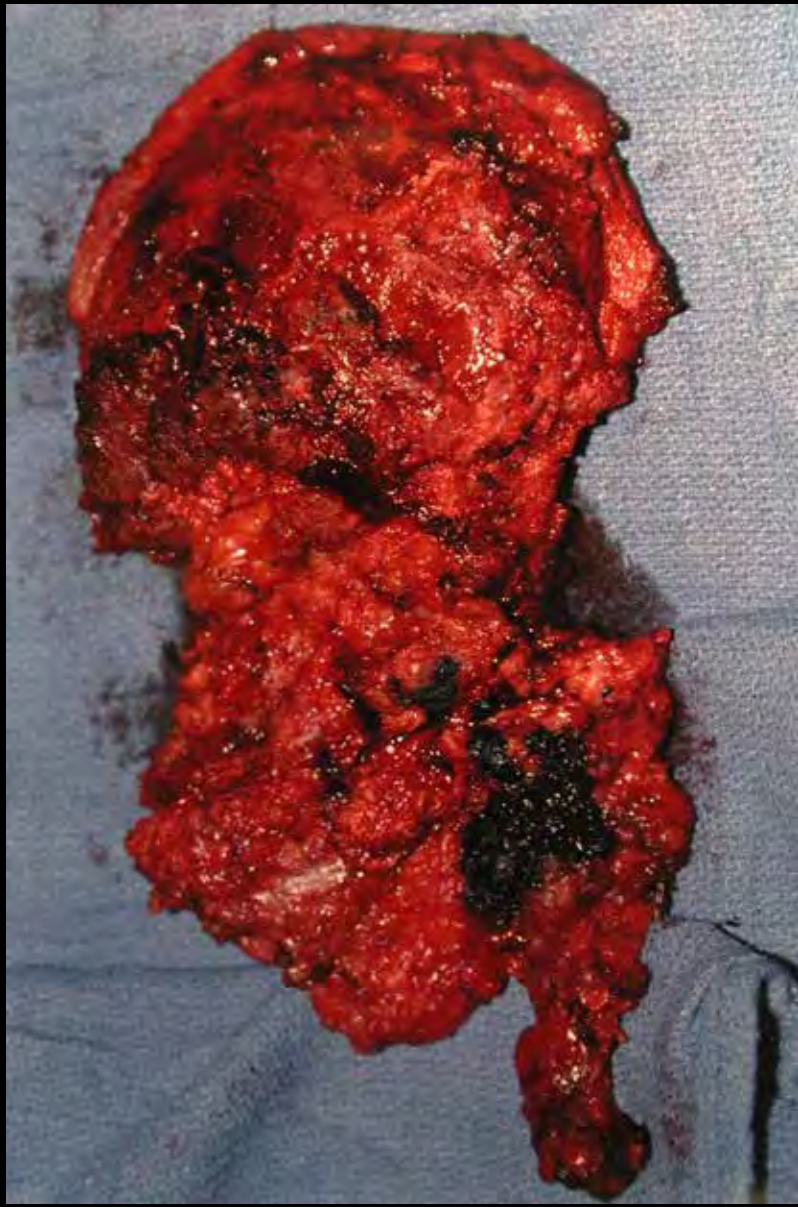
19M – extensive ulcerated AVM face



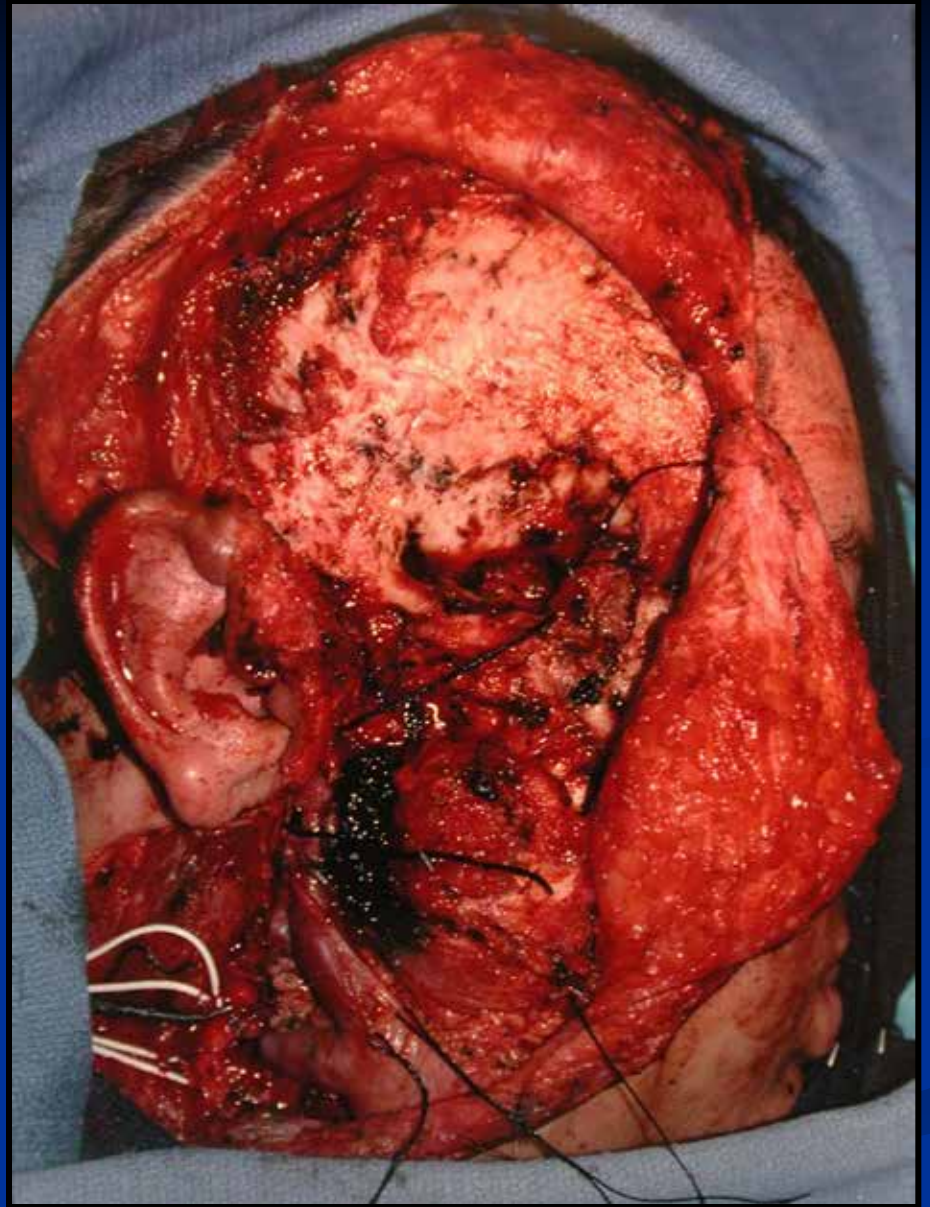
Reconstruction with free TRAM flap



Recurrent/Residual AVM in temporal fossa, masseter & parotid



Excised specimen  
-Temporalis M  
-Parotid & facial N.  
-Masseter M.



Facial nerve graft



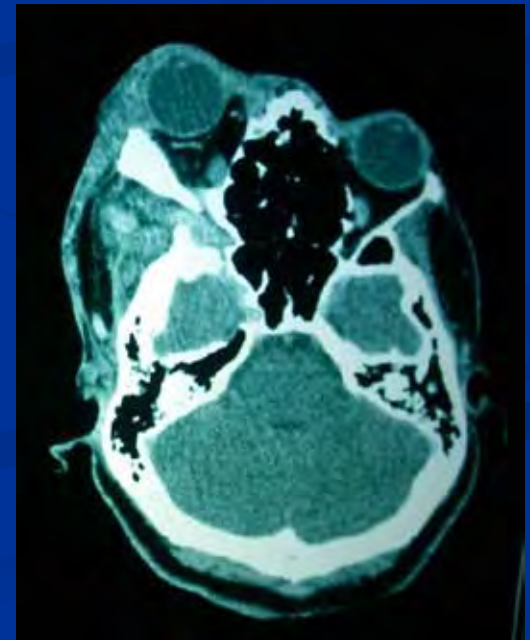
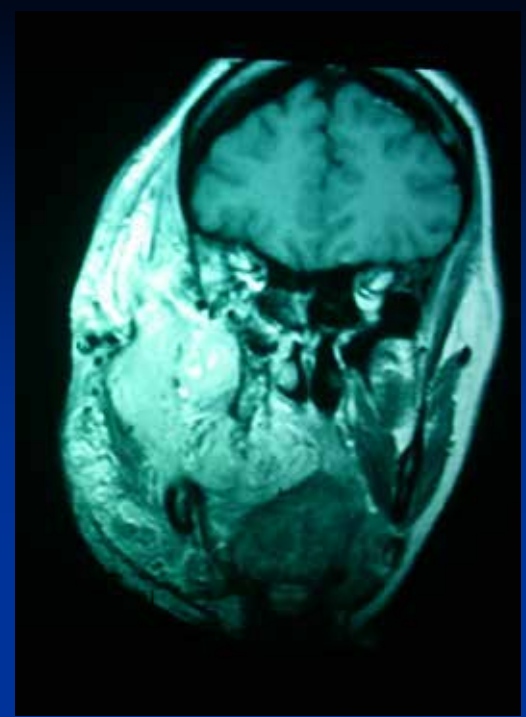


4 months post op

34 F AVM R orbit, maxilla, cheek, facial m, lips

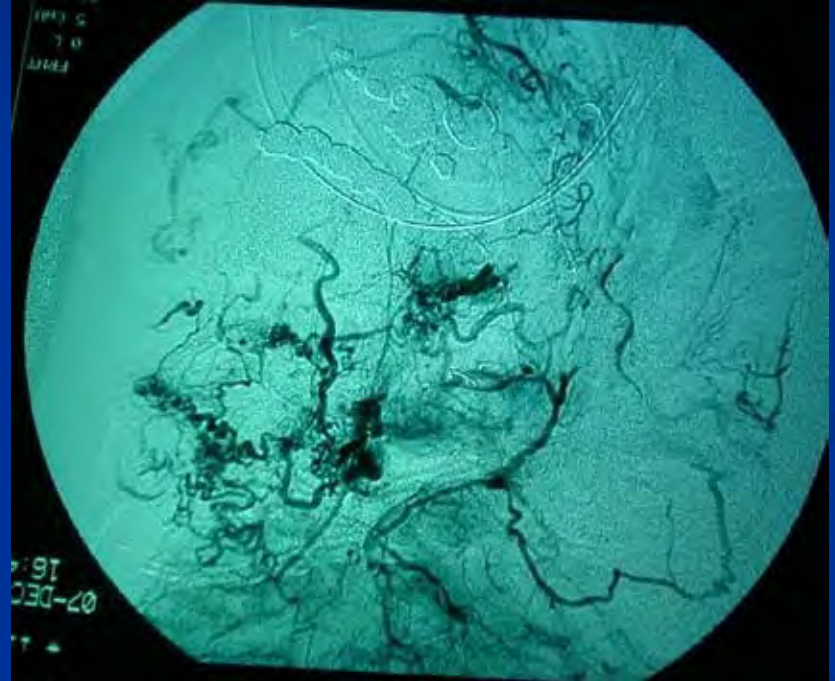
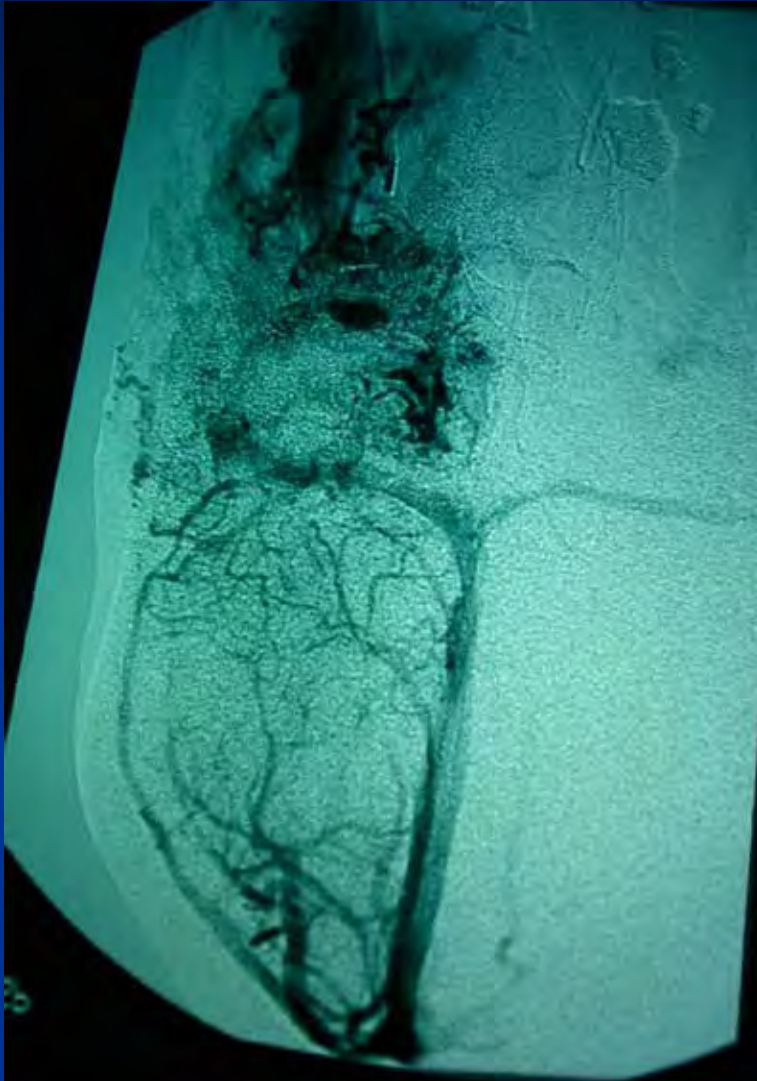


Overgrowth R maxilla



**Overgrowth R maxilla**

# embolization





**AVM resected**

**Hemi-Lefort 1 osteotomy(WS)**

**Planned functional rectus abd m/c flap**





**R eye left per patient request**



**Early post-op**



6 m later - exenteration of R orbit & flap revised



Pre op



2 year post op





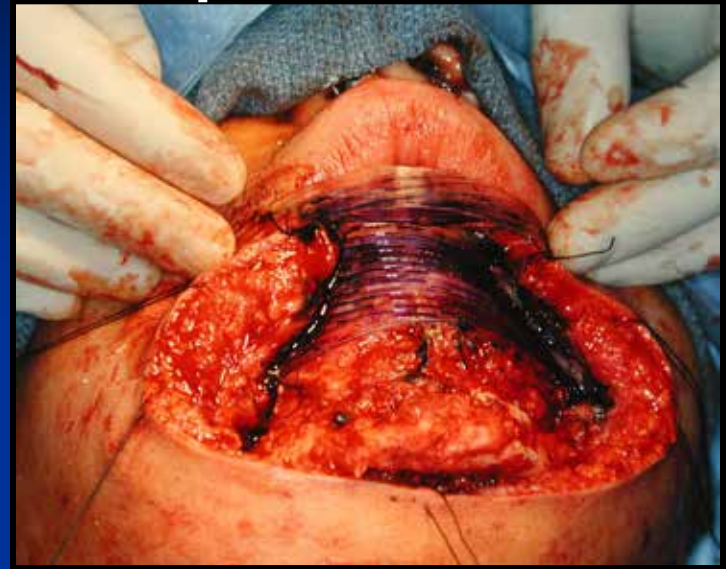
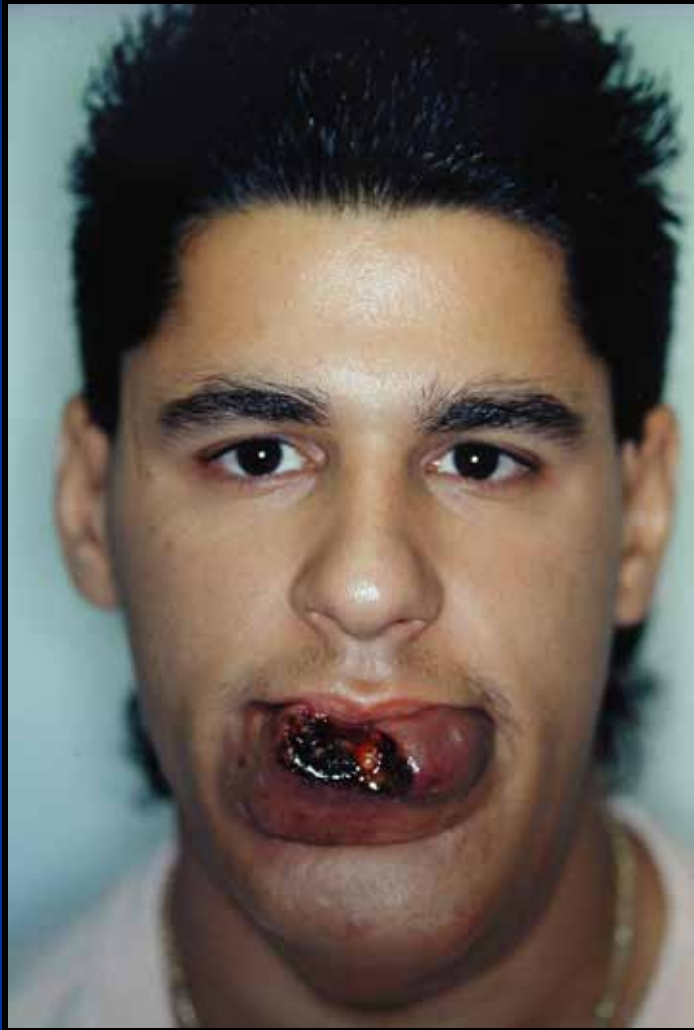
# Microsurgical Reconstruction of Head & Neck

## Multifaceted & Laminated Flaps

### Folded Flap

# Folded Free Flap

## Ulcerated AVM of lower lip & chin



Intra-operative alginate model of the defect

**3-D MODEL**



**2-D PATTERN**



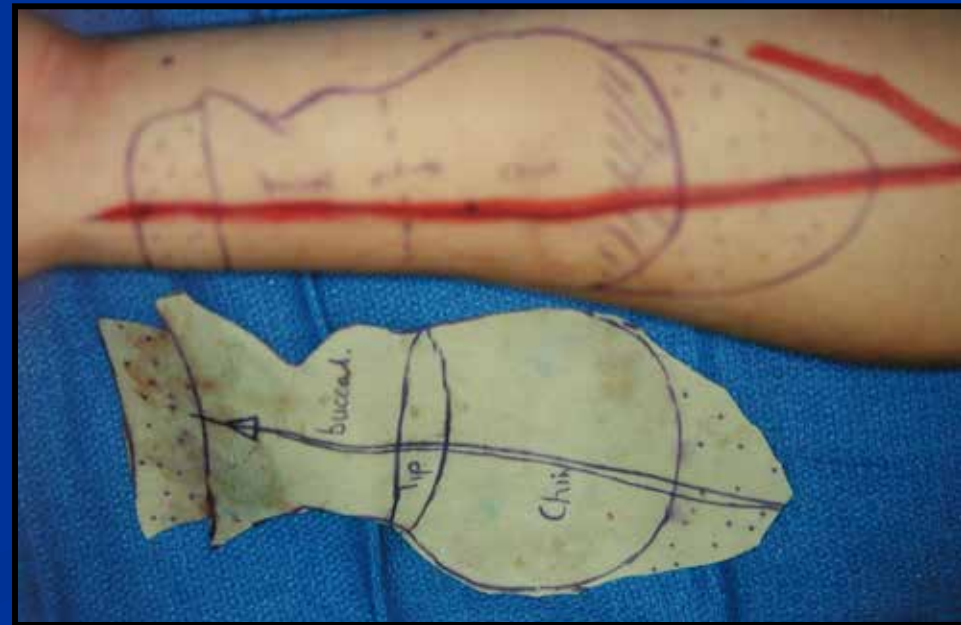
**VOLUME**



**COVER/LINING (S)**

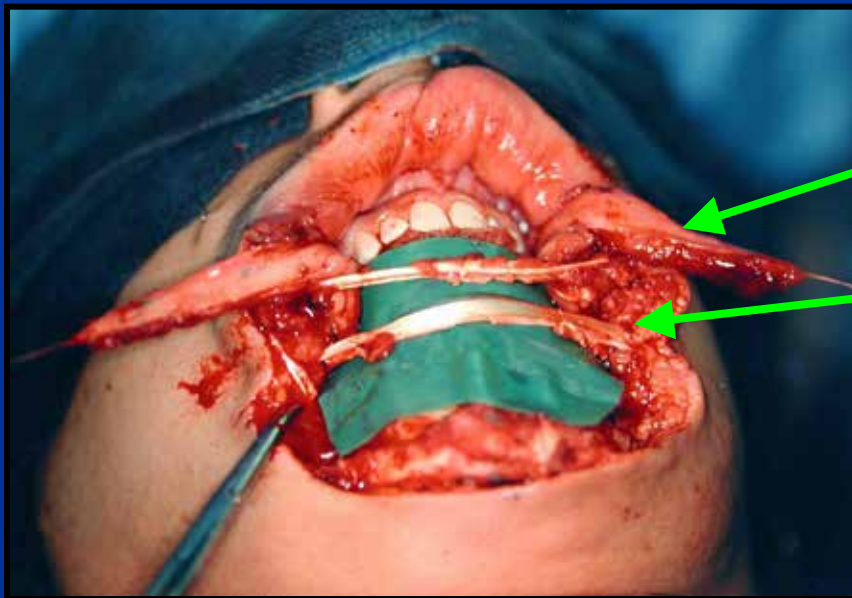


**Tailored radial forearm flap**



**Pribaz, Morris, Mulliken PRS 1994**

# Bilateral FAMM flaps for vermilion reconstruction



FAMM flap

Oral sling with palmaris longus tendon graft

(intact modiolus)

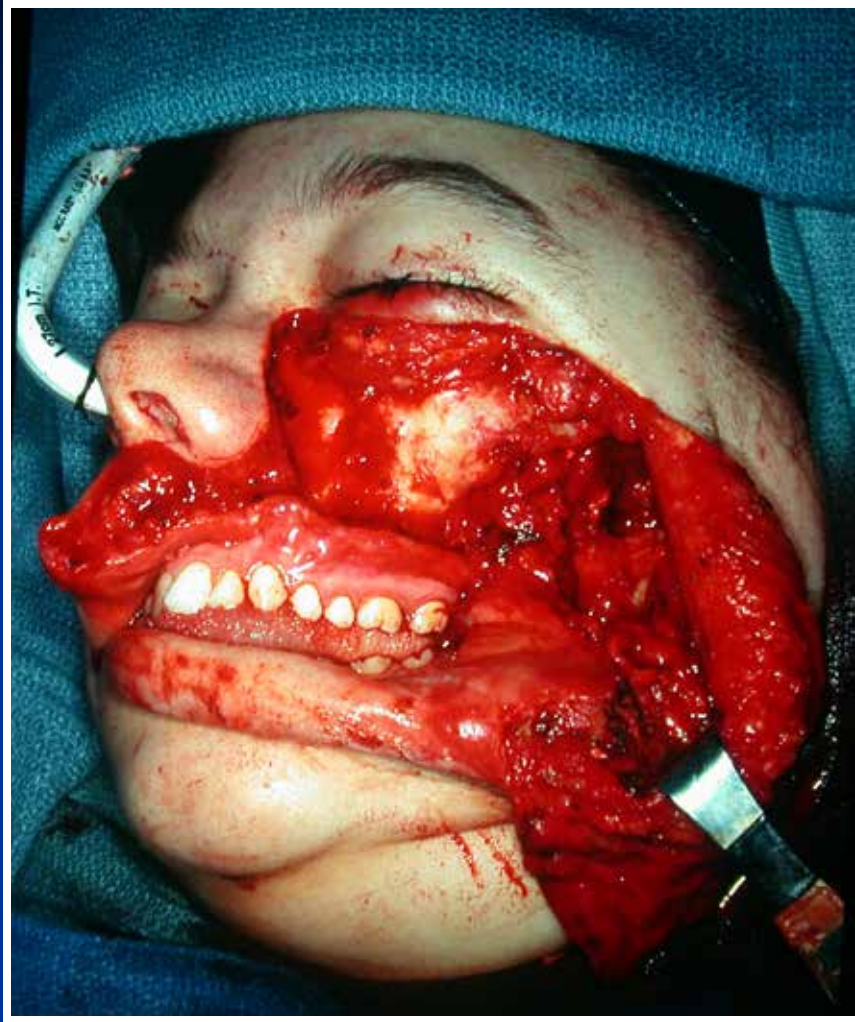
**Post – folded radial  
forearm flap and  
bilateral FAMM flap**



**4 years post op**

**20 F extensive AVM of L maxilla & cheek**

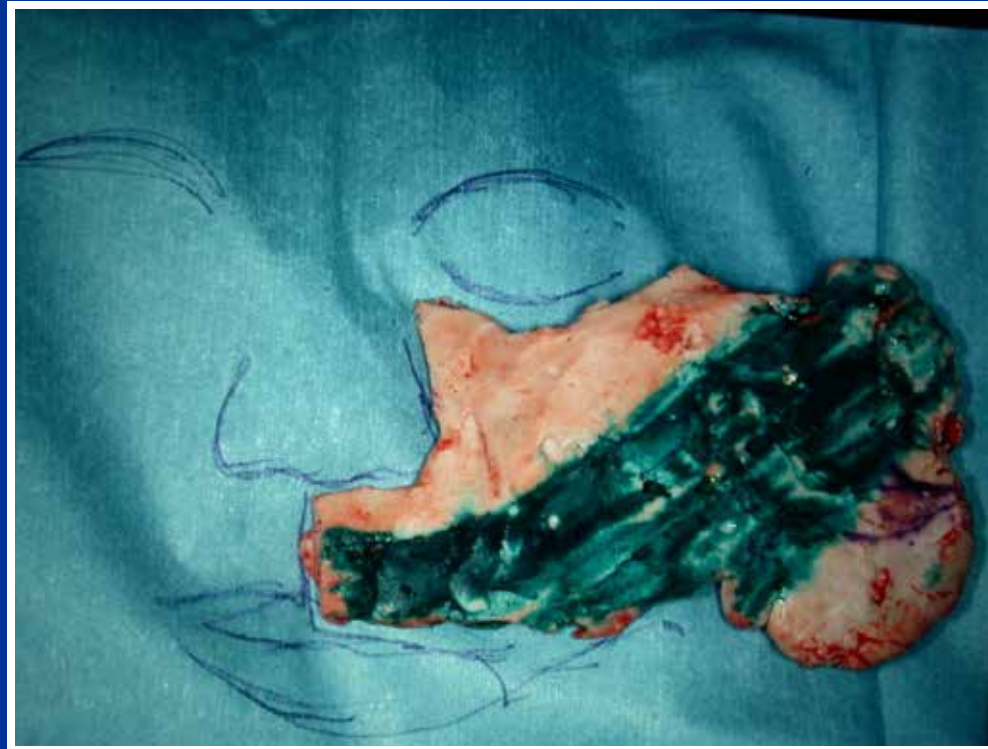




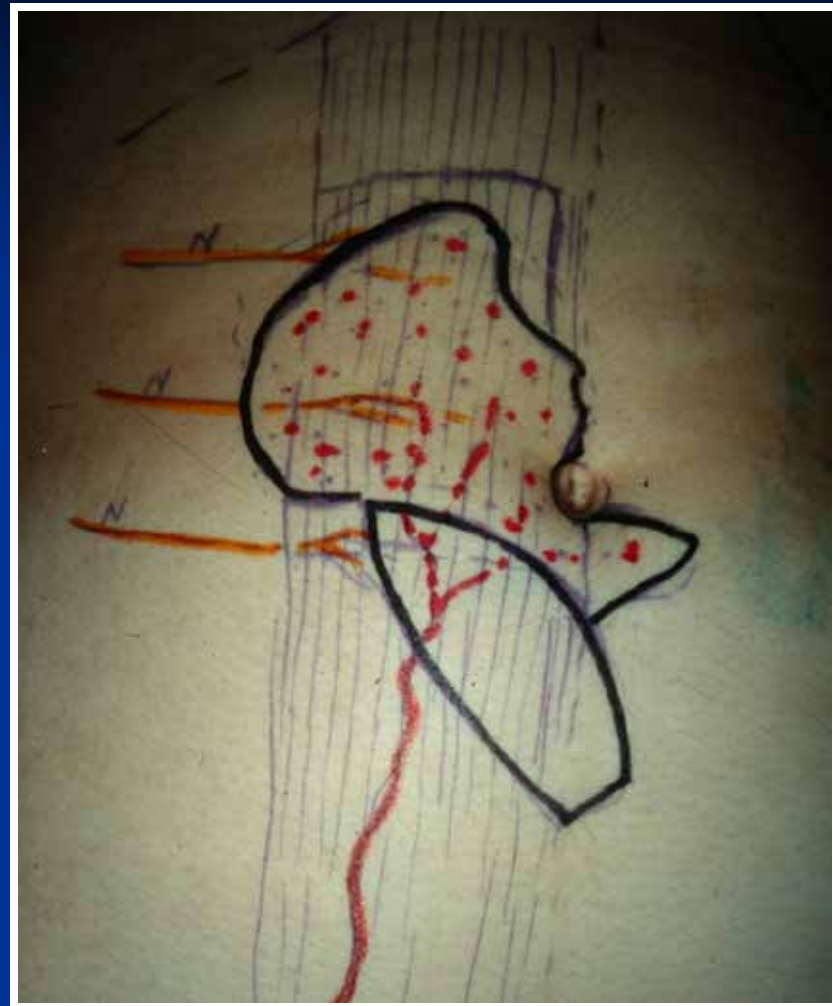
**Resection AVM :**

**buccal mucosa, facial m, partial left max**

## Alginate model of defect

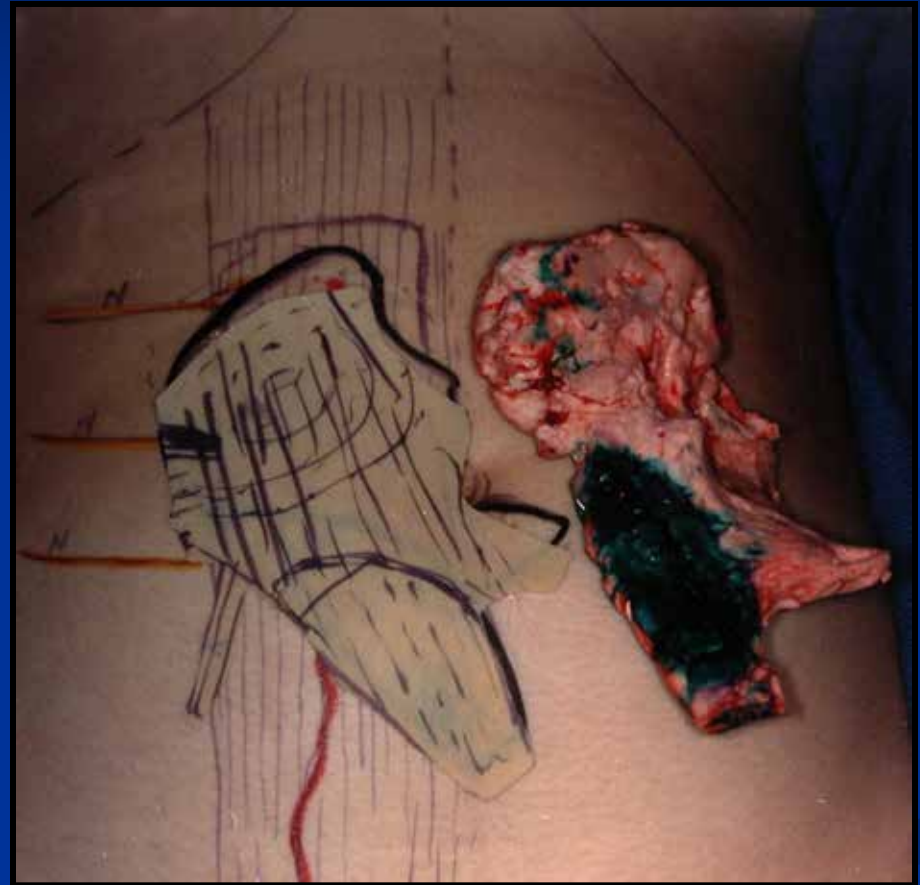




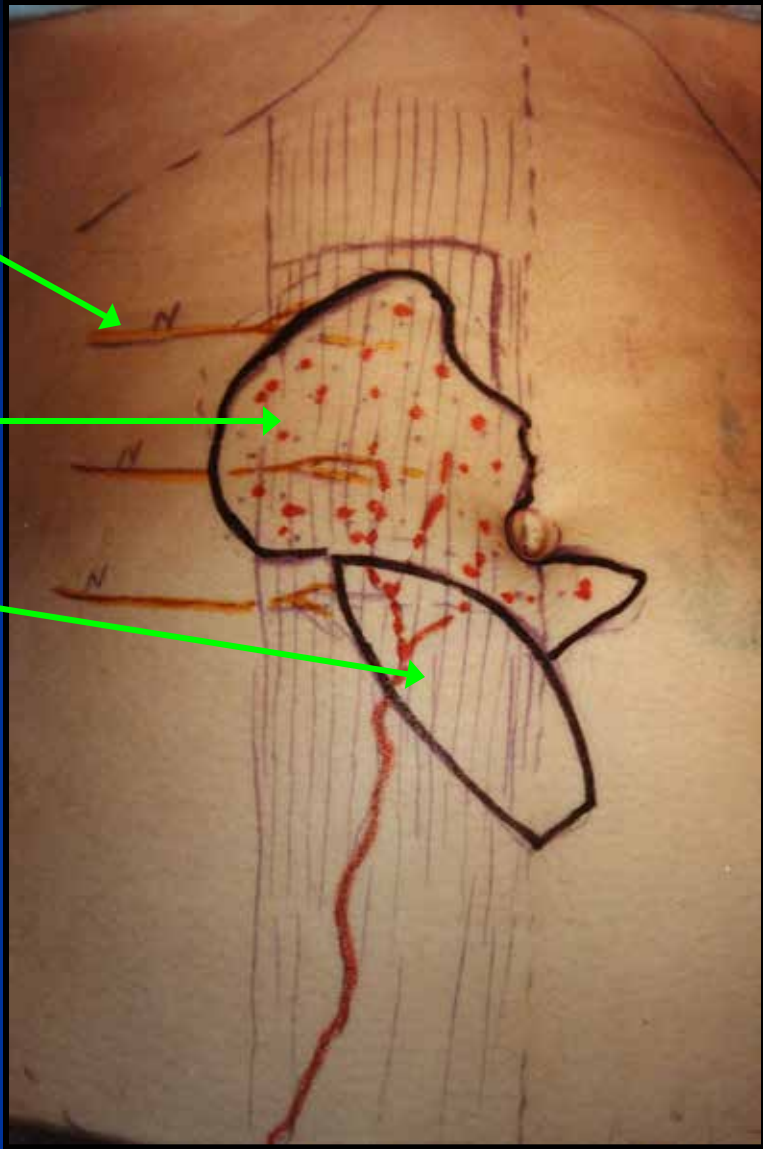


**3D model used to design tailored flap from rectus abd.  
flap with planned seg nerve harvest**

**Alginate model showing direction  
of needed muscle pull for smile**



**Rectus abdo. M/C flap  
planned**

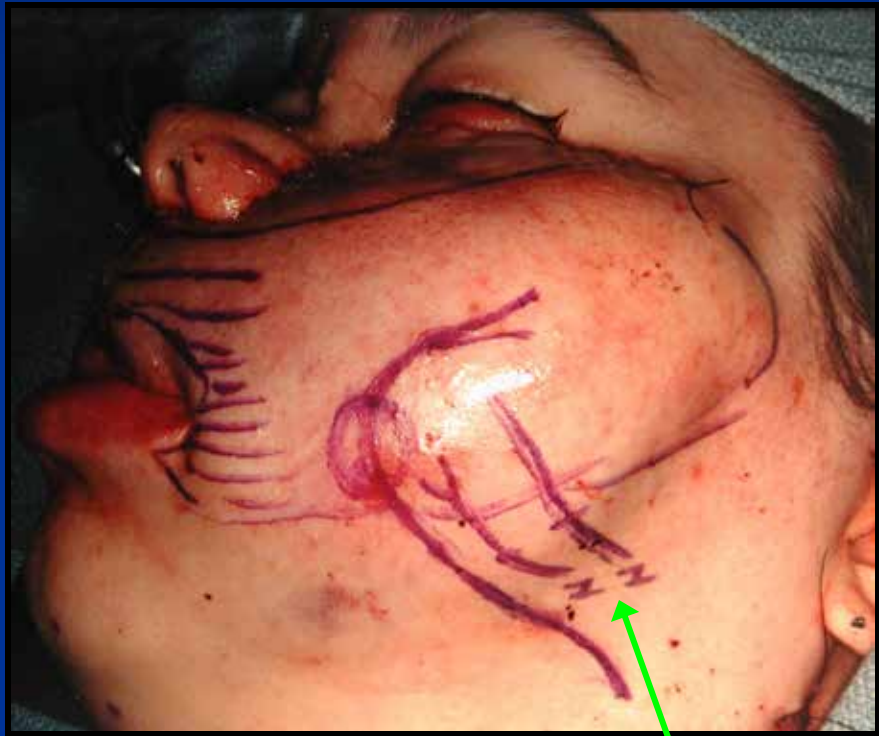


Intercostal nerves

De-epith

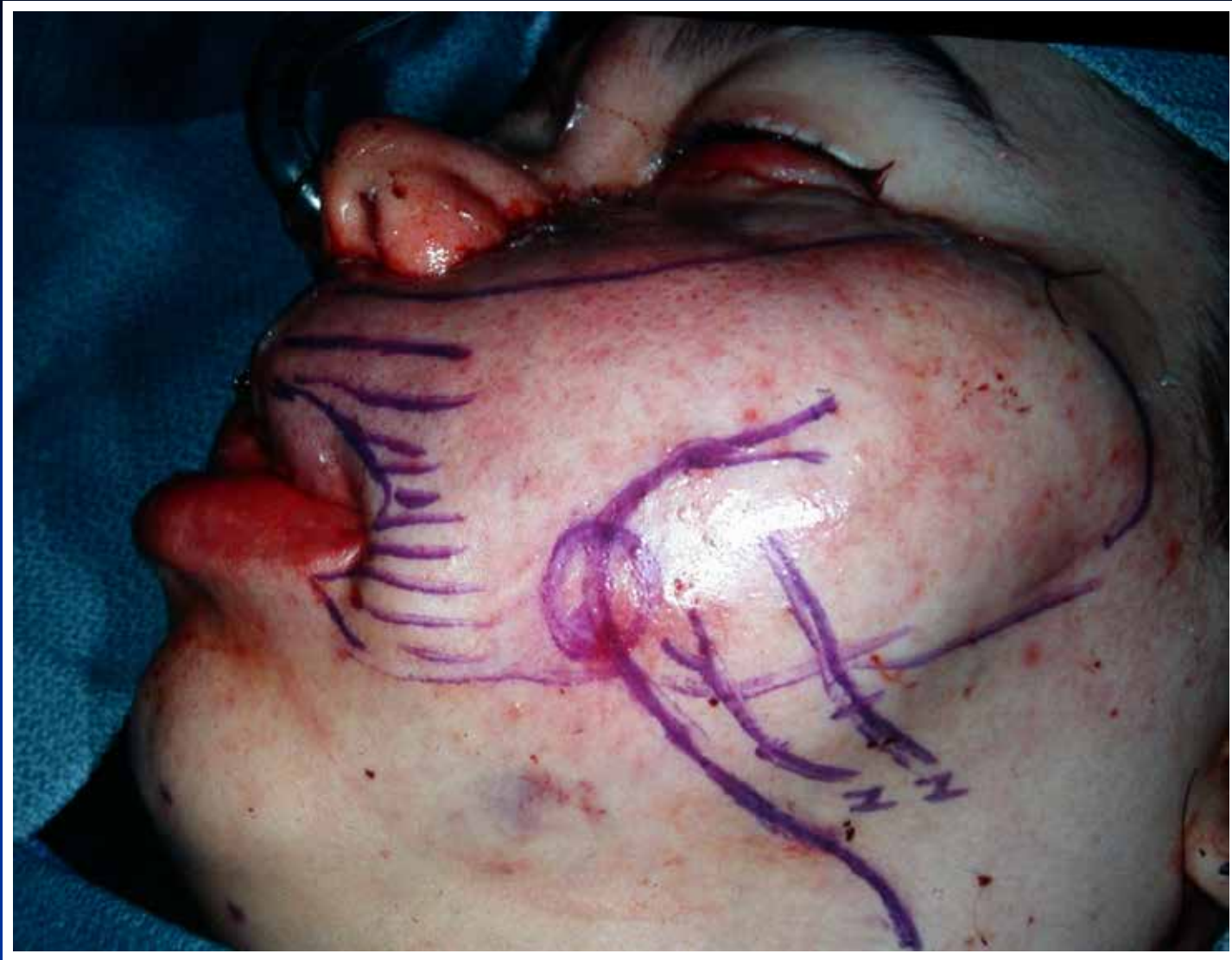
Skin island

Tailored functional Rectus Abd. M/C flap



Post flap transfer

Intercostal nerve to facial nerve repair (x2)



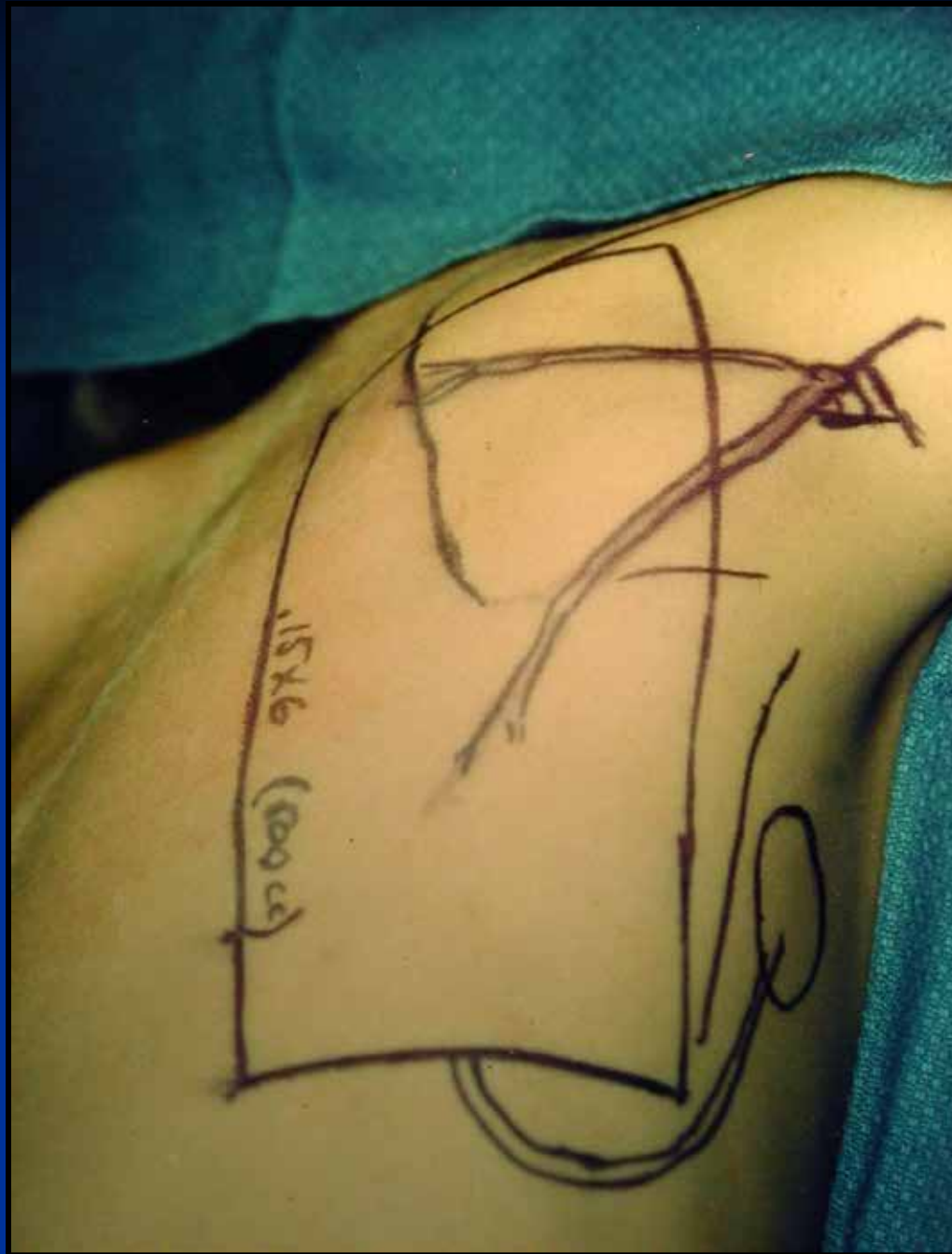
**Flap transferred – functional rectus abdominus  
nerves coapted to facial br**



5F – extensive AVM  
of (R) cheek, maxilla,  
upper & lower lips



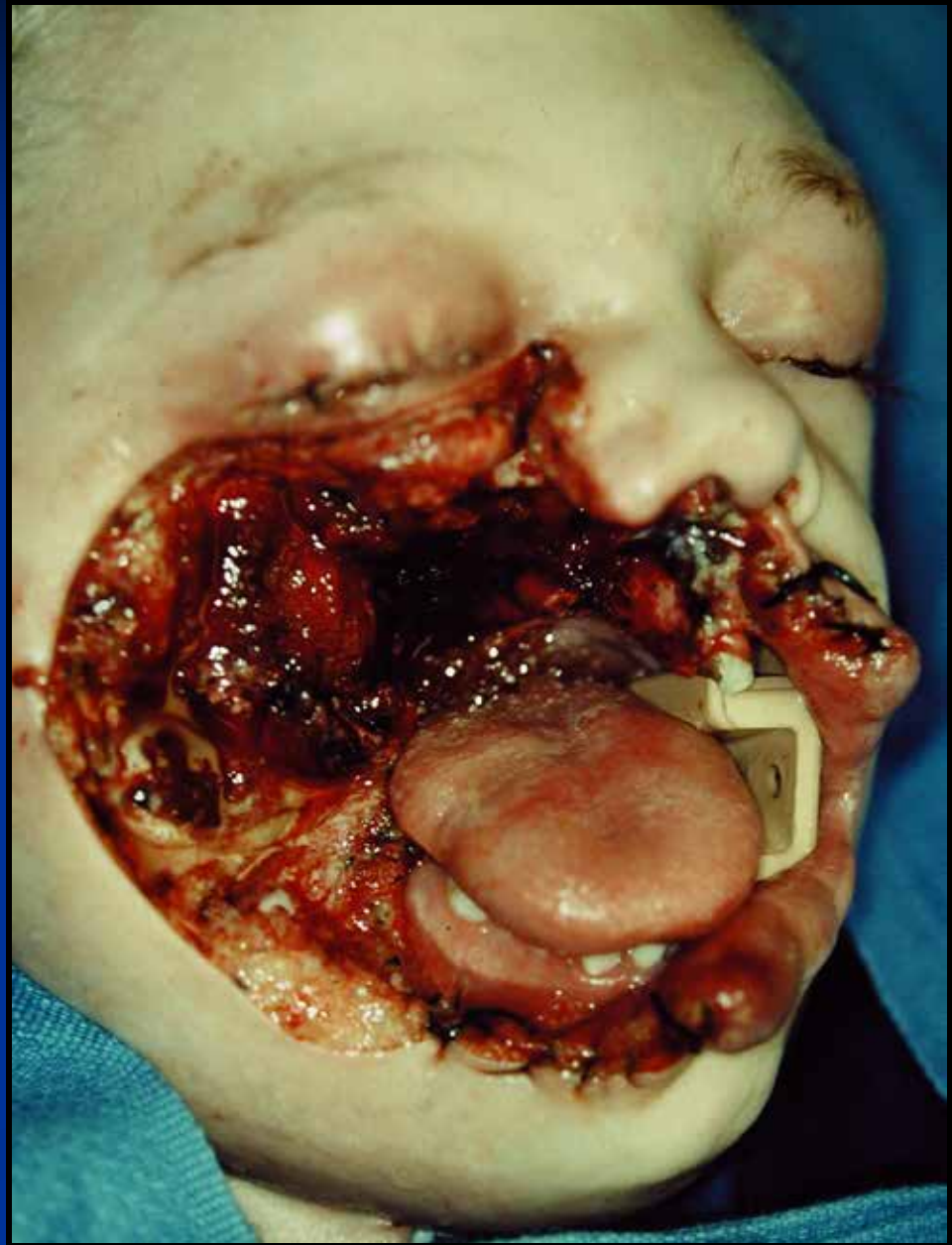
Preoperative  
expansion of back  
for composite  
folded flap transfer





Post AVM resection -massive blood loss  
-wound packed

5 days post resection  
- Contaminated (? infected) wound



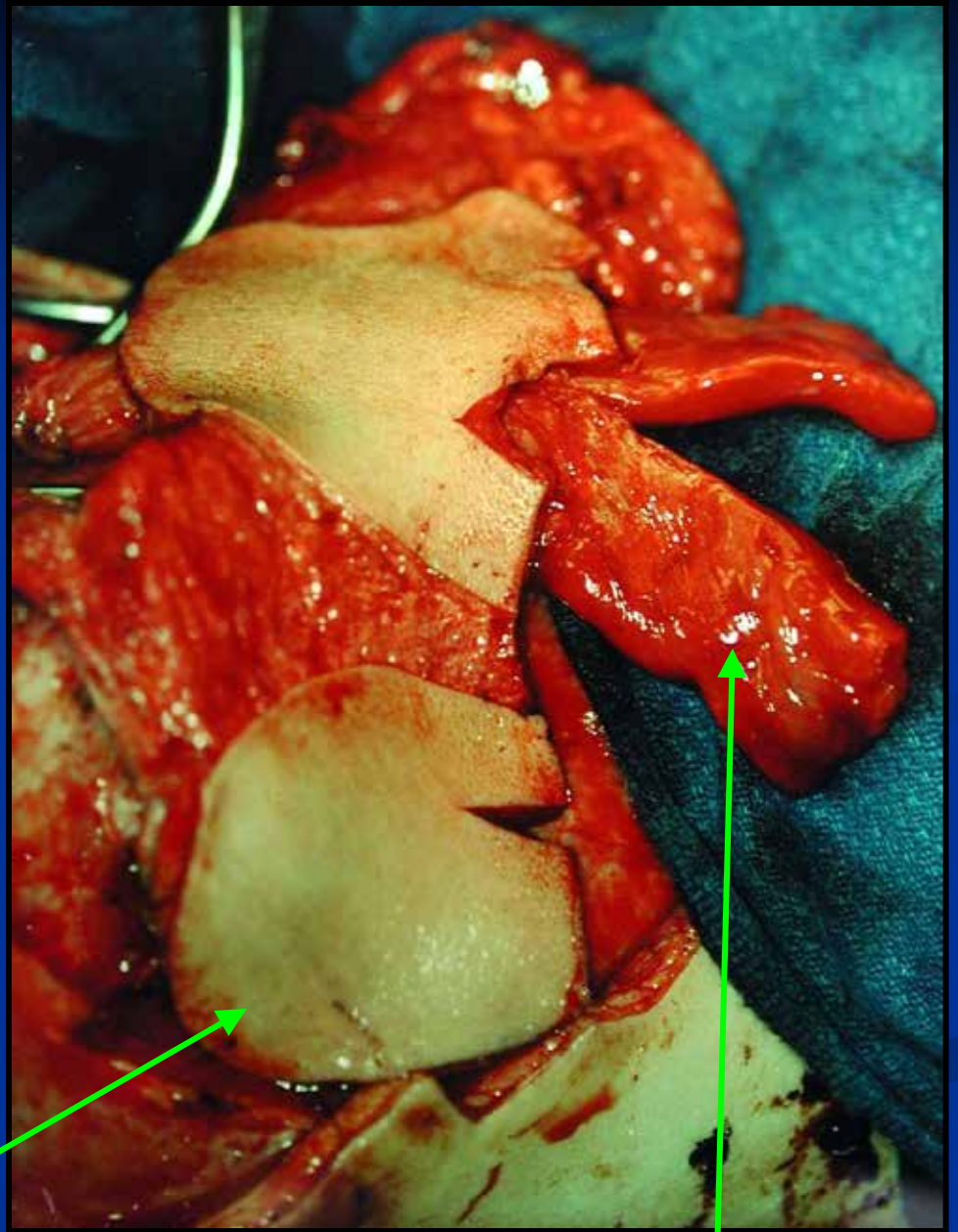




Alginate model of defect



3-D model g 2-D pattern



Tailored expanded parascapular flap & lat. functional lat. dorsi muscle



Folded parascapular/lat dorsi sandwich flap in situ prior to detachment

Post flap transfer

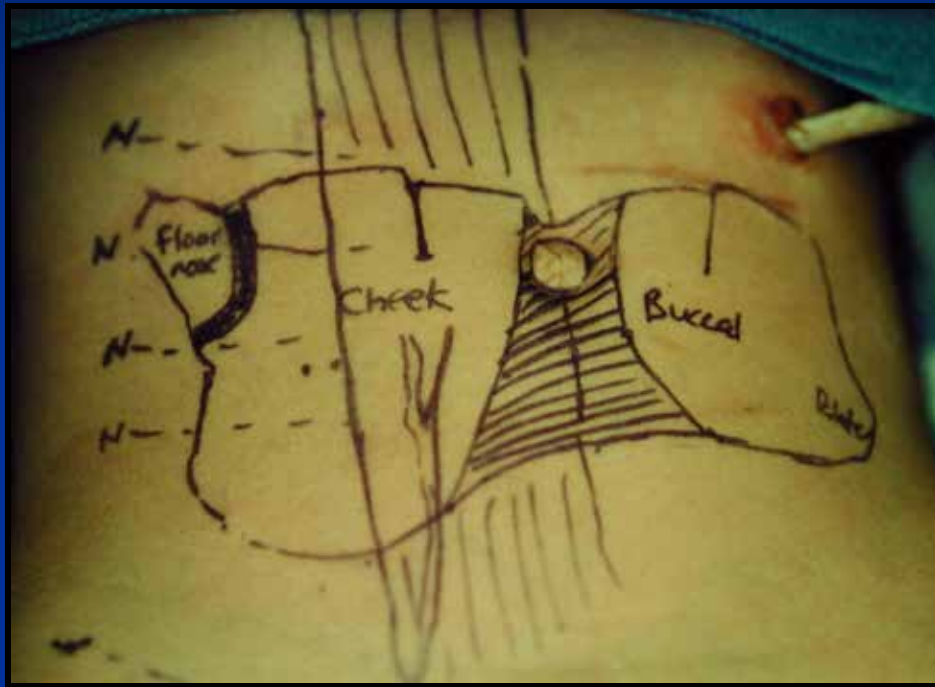




4 days post op  
- total flap necrosis due to  
infection

Post debridement & SSG





Tailored functional TRAM  
folded flap



Post flap transfer



2 years post op

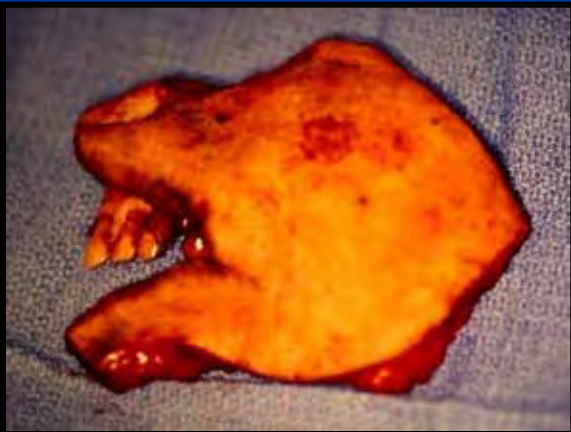


4 years post op



6 years later

- Expanded submental flap & cheek flap for cutaneous coverage



**39M extensive AVM (L) cheek, lips, maxilla**





**Alginate model of defect**

3-D MODEL



2-D PATTERN



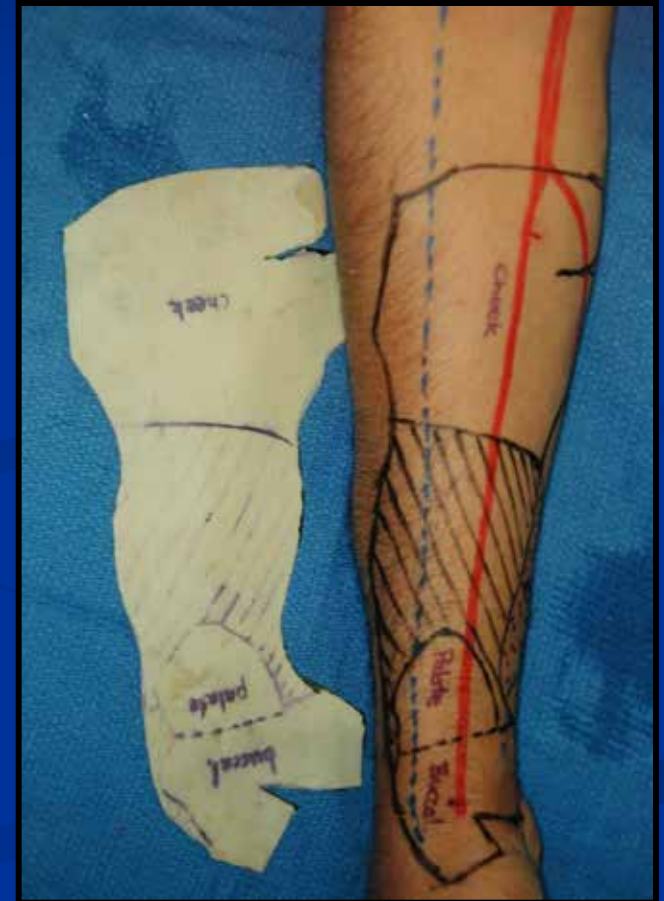
VOLUME



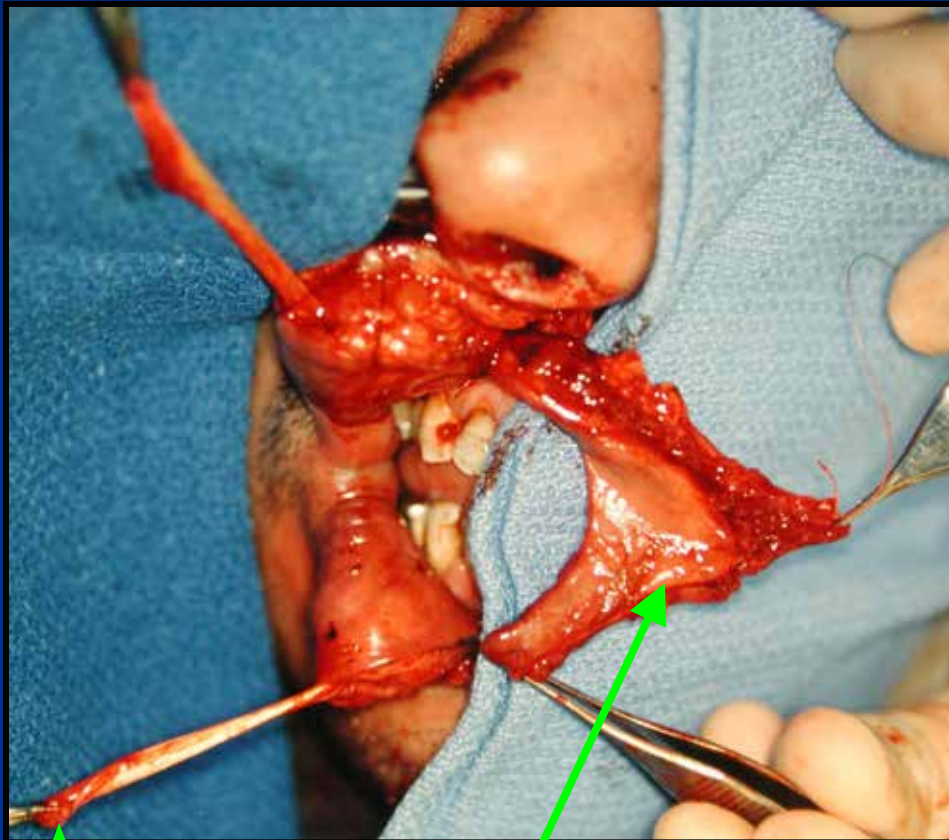
COVER/LINING (S)



3-D model g 2-D pattern



Tailored radial forearm flap

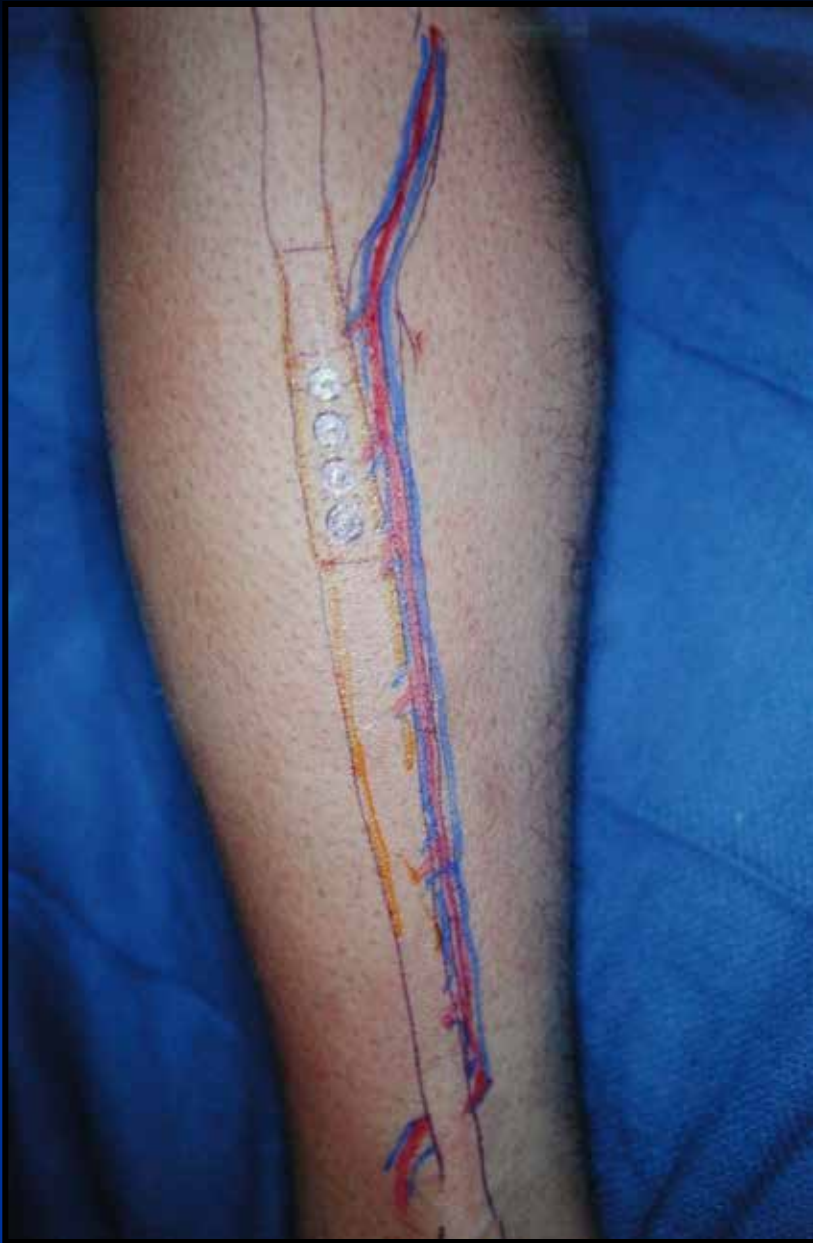


**Contralateral FAMM flap for  
vermillion**

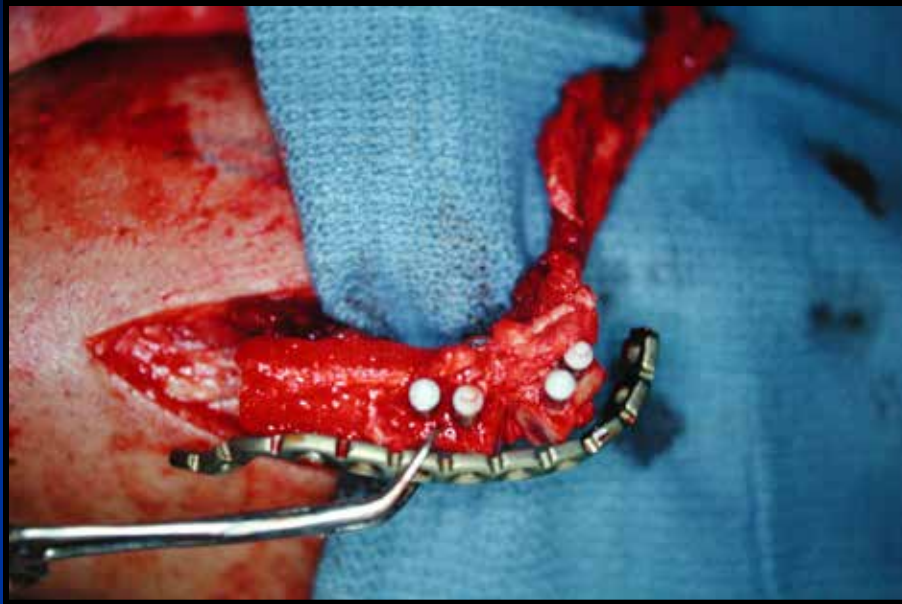
**& palmaris longus oral sling**



**Immediate post op**

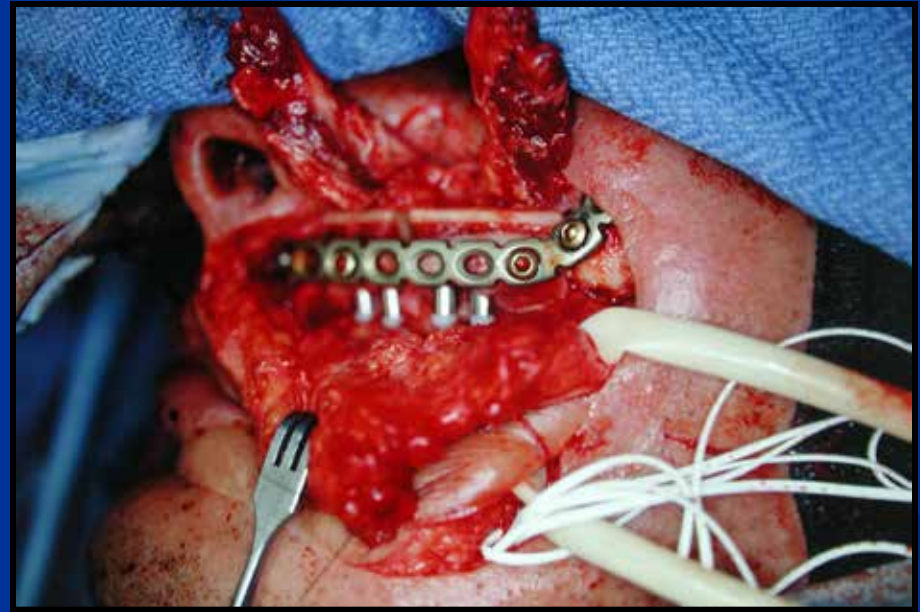


**Free fibula flap with osseointegrated implants for (L) maxilla reconstruction**



Free fibula flap with  
osseointegrated implants  
transferred to (L) maxilla

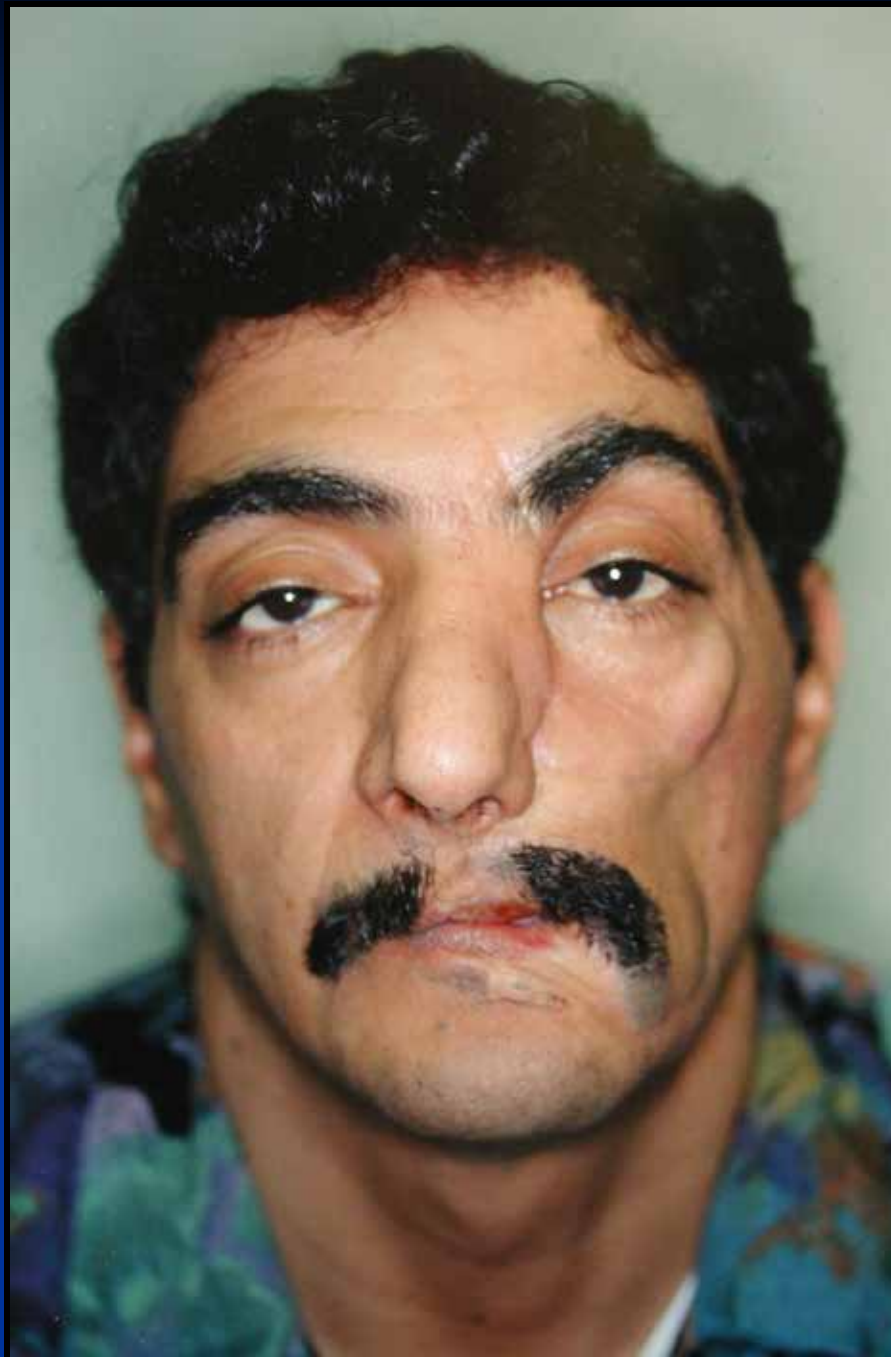
(Willie Stephens)





**Extended forehead flap to cover cheek defect & moustache reconstruction**

6 months post op





**Functional submental/platysmal flap for cheek reconstruction**





**Functional submental/platysmal flap based on submental vessels & cervical branches of facial N.**



**1 week later**

**- muscle functioning**



**2 years later**

# **AVM Defects**

**n Reconstruction of AVM defects  
of central face  
with  
Prefabricated & Prelaminated  
Flaps**

# Flap Prefabrication

**Vascular Pedicle**

-

**Subcutaneous Buried Position**

-

**Neovascular Response**

-

**Flap Transfer**

# Flap Prelamination

**Implantation of tissue or other device into a vascular territory prior to its transfer**

*(Vascular supply is not manipulated)*

**Massive full thickness  
necrosis of the (R) cheek,  
upper & lower lips.**

**Post embolization of  
vascular malformation**

**Thrombosis of multiple  
ext carotid branches**





**Residual deformity post multiple tissue expanders & free radial forearm flap for (R) cheek lining**

Plan for prefabricated neck  
flap for lower lip reconstruction



**Free mini DLFC vascular  
pedicle flap to neck**

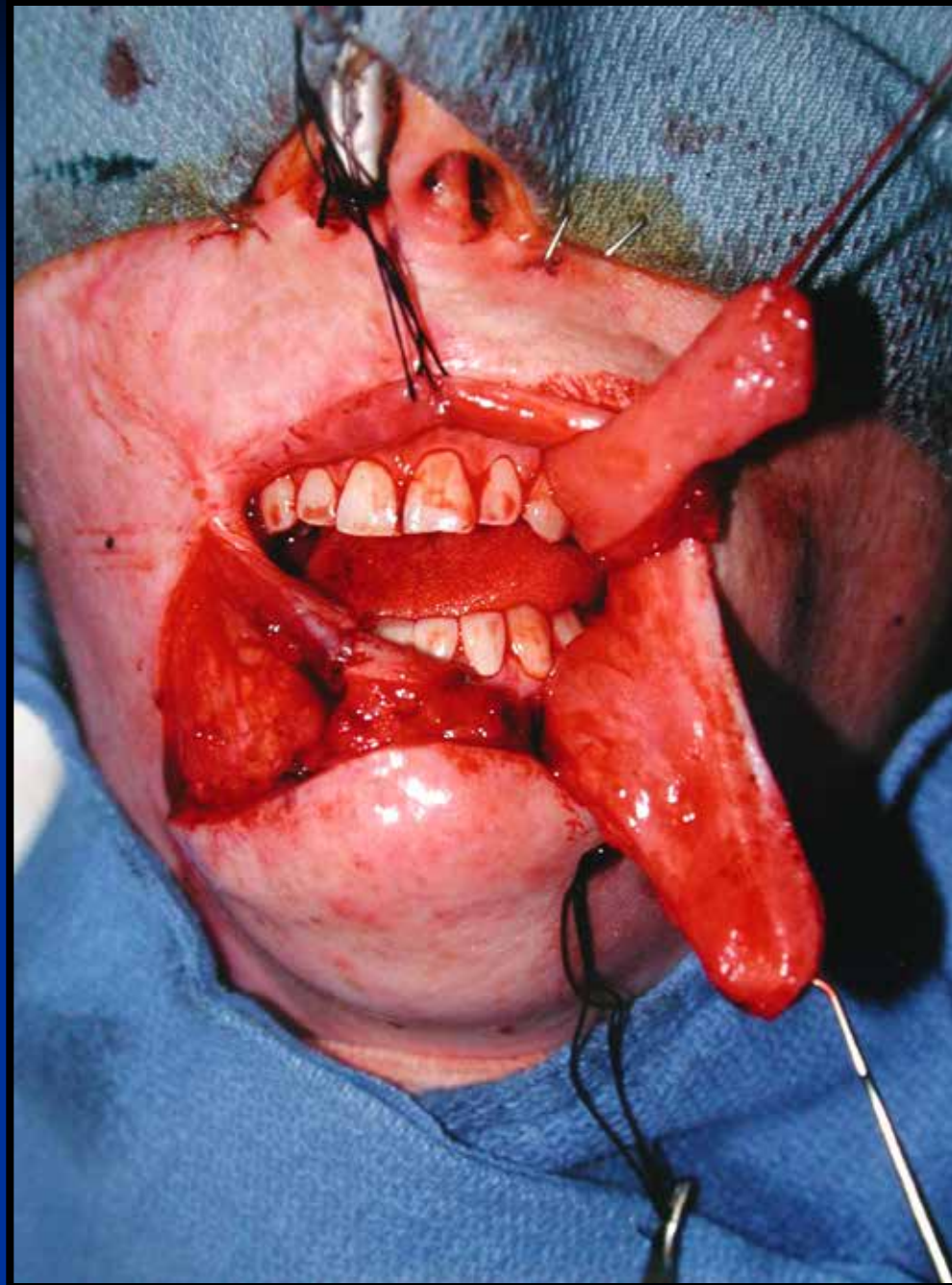
**Placed over a tissue exp**

8 weeks later

Lining flaps  
for lower lip

&

FAMM flap  
for upper lip





**Immediate**

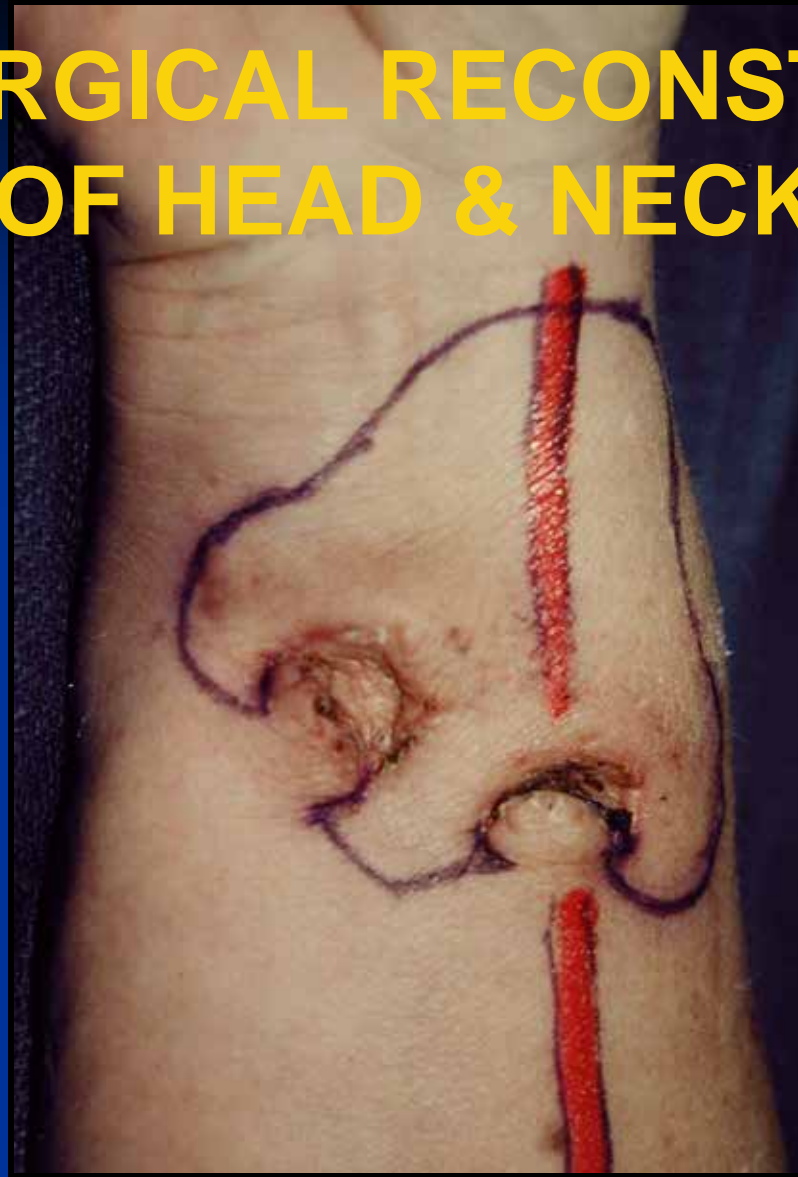


**Prefabricated flap is slightly congested – chemically leeching**

**6 months**



# MICROSURGICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF HEAD & NECK



**Multifaceted & Laminated Flaps**

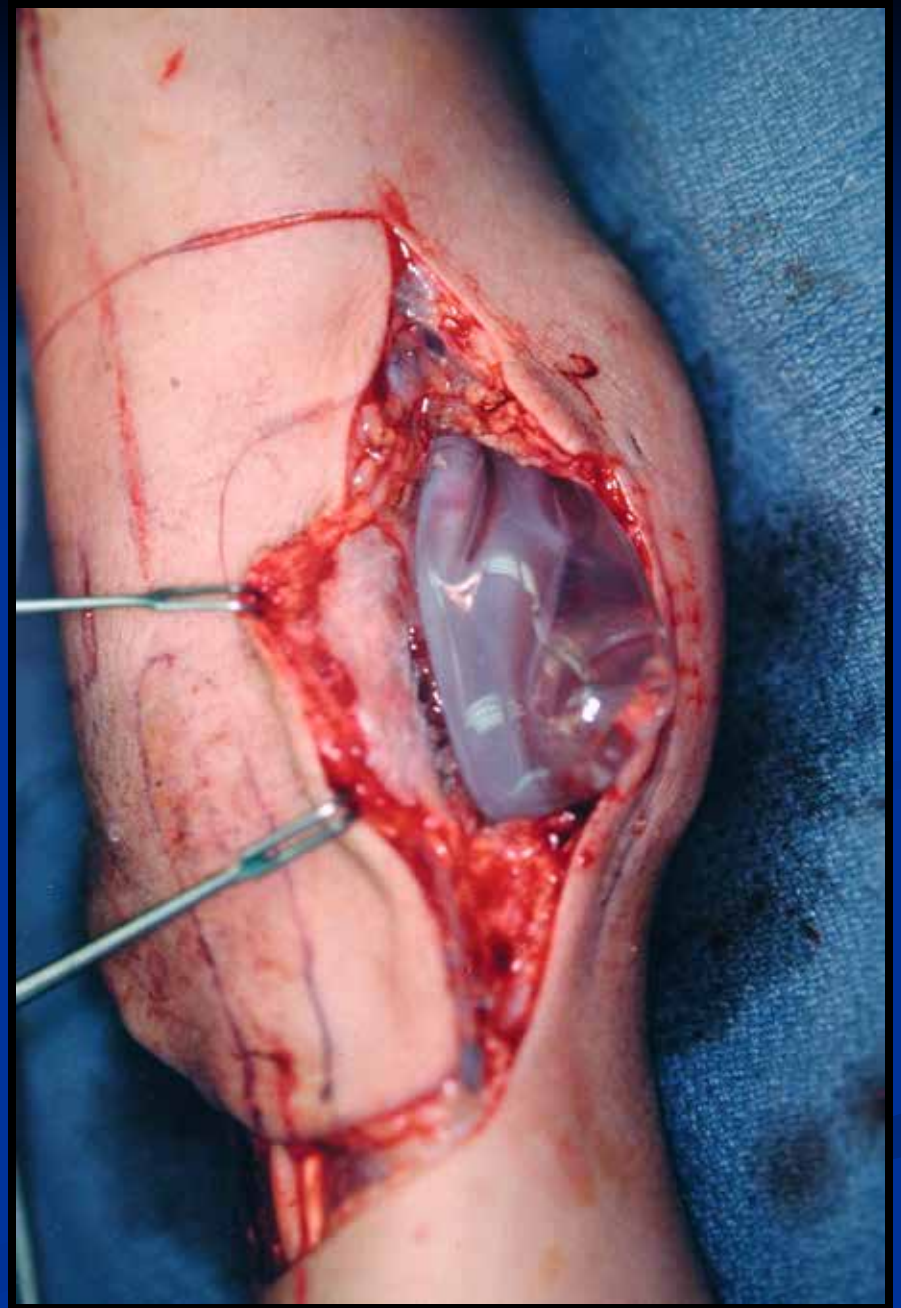
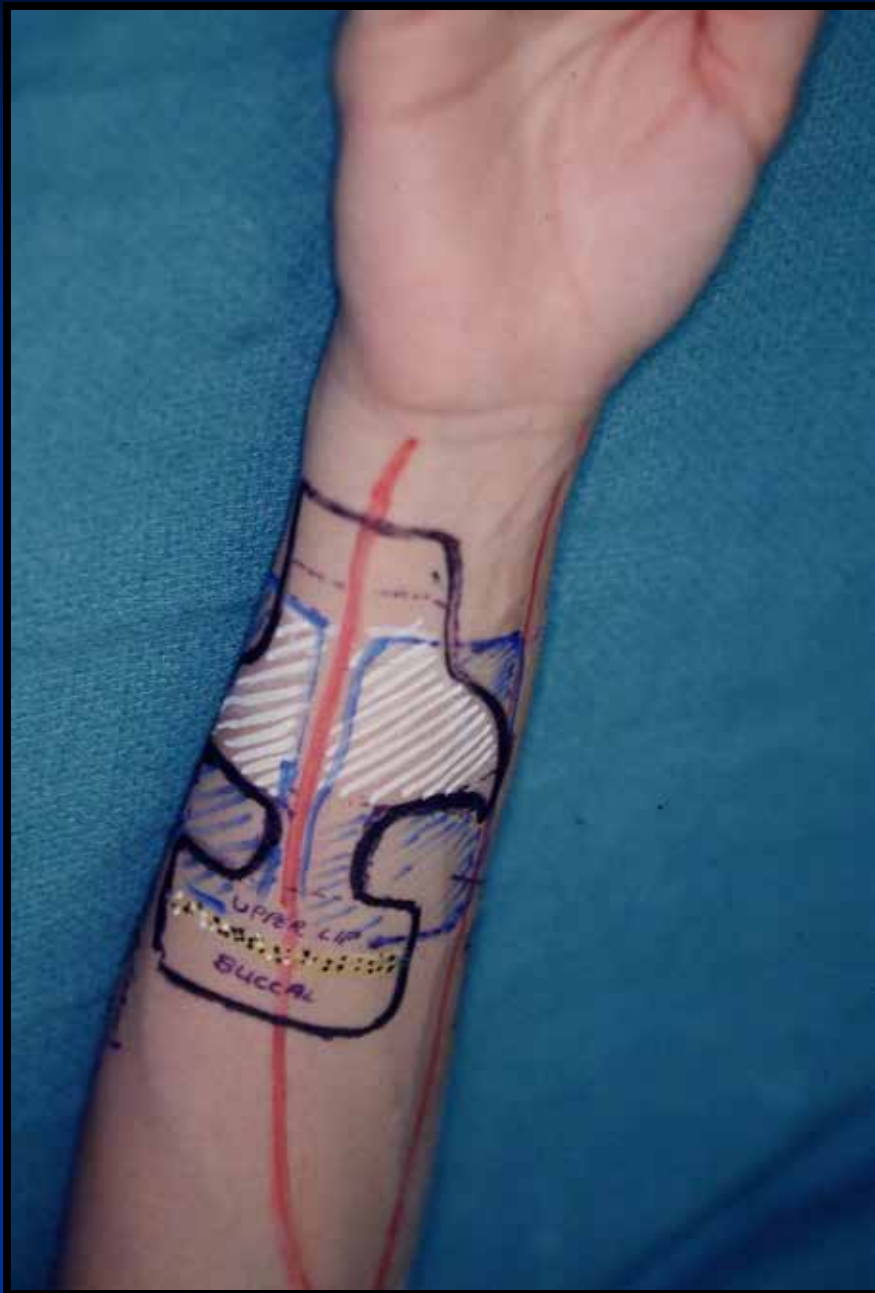
**Prelaminated**



Young Patient with  
AVM of nose/lip

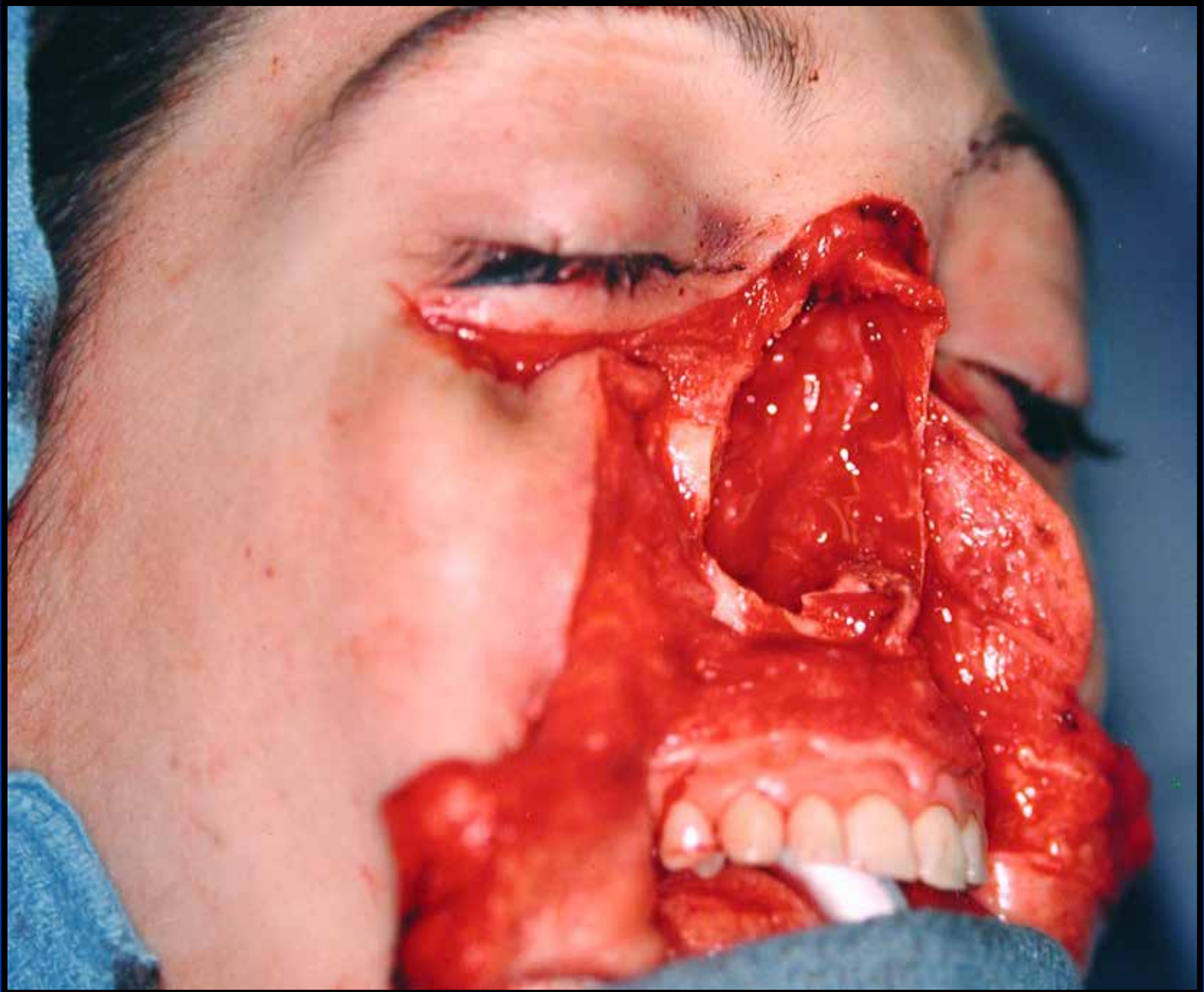
(prior partial excision  
& Abbe flap)

## Prelaminated ulna forearm flap



## Healed FTSG on forearm flap

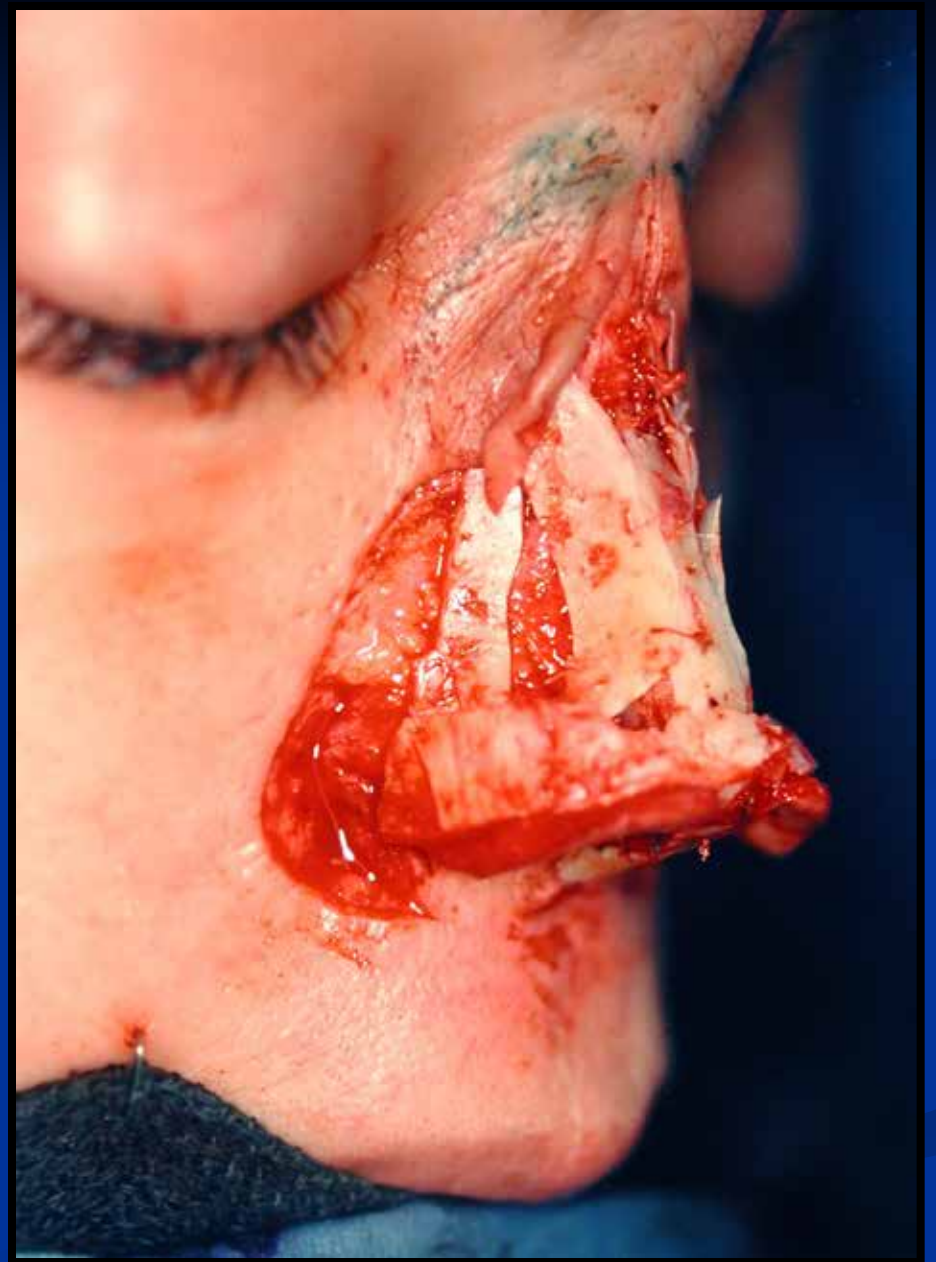
# Resection of AVM



**Prelaminated flap transfer for total nasal & upper lip reconstr.**



**Post first revision**



**Second stage nasal reconstruction with lining flaps, cartilage grafts & forehead flap**



12 month post op

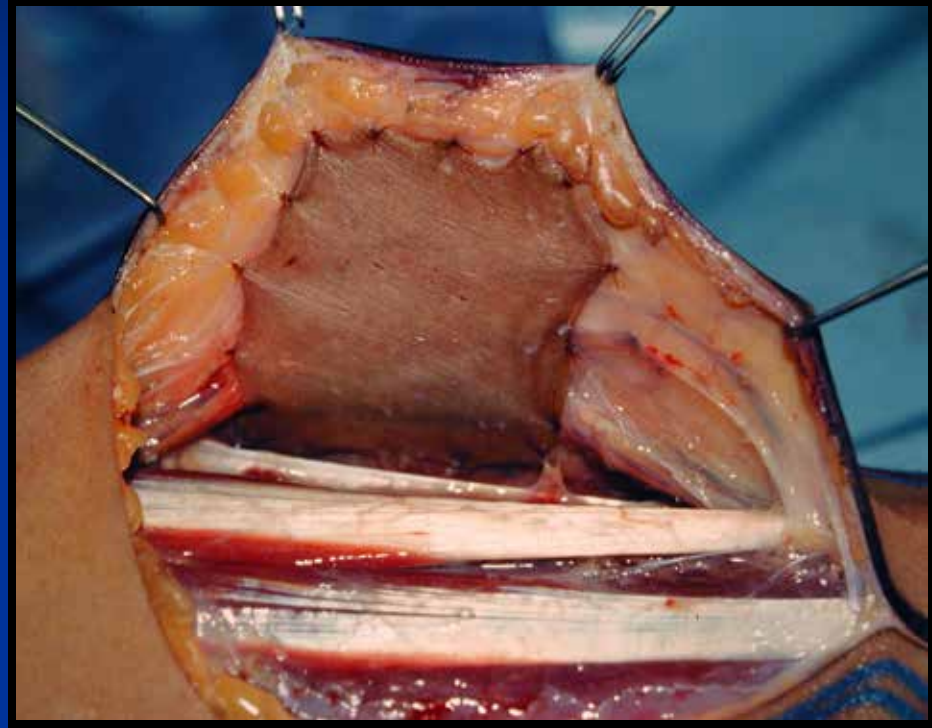
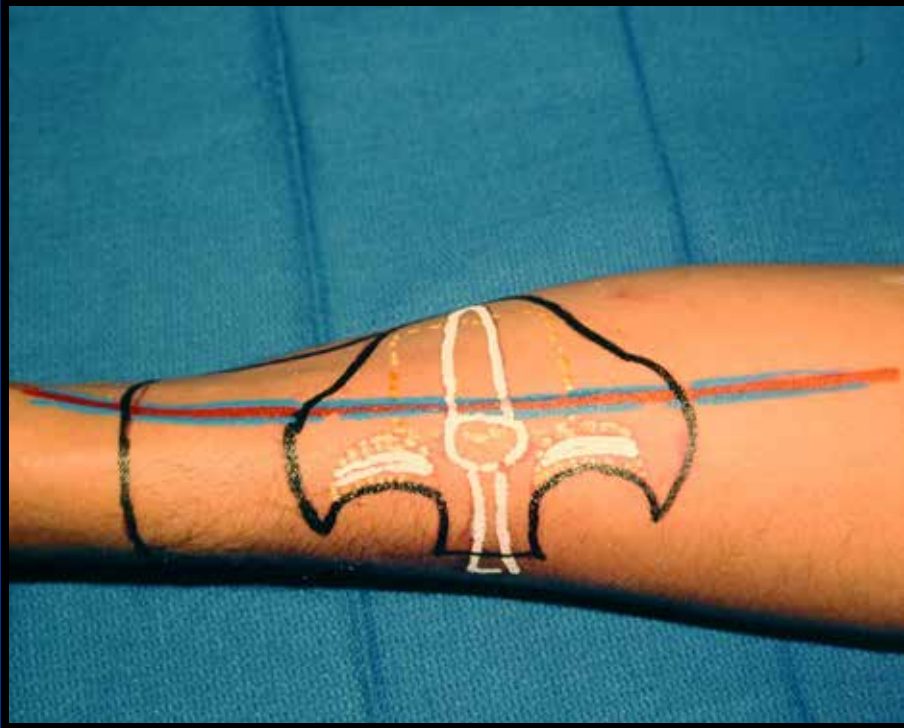




12 month post op

# AVM of nose & cheek





**Prelaminated flap on forearm for nasal & cheek reconstruction**



**Carved costal cartilage  
graft for support  
FTSG for lining**

**Prelaminated nose &  
cheek flap on forearm**



**Early post op**



**Post resection AVM**



Post cheek  
advancement





**Final coverage with expanded forehead flap**

# AVM of nose & cheek





# AVM Head and Neck Free Flap Reconstruction

- Allows wide resection
- Optimizes vascularity :  
(? less ischemic stimulus)
- ? residual AVM adj to flap can remain quiescent

# Fate of Residual AVM Following Treatment

- ▶ Not known
- ▶ Free flap brings in new vascularity and nutritional blood flow
  - ▶ ? Residual AVM becomes asymptomatic



# Conclusion - I

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- 1. Wide surgical excision and complex reconstruction “cures” approx 50% of patients.**
- 2. All patients (even residual AVM) greatly improved symptomatically.**
- 3. ?? Can residual AVM “invade” FF??  
-probably can & will if high flow AVM left  
at base of excision**



# Conclusion - II

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- 4. Need better way to determine adequacy of resection.**
- 5. Consider earlier resection prior to symptoms.**
- 6. Interdisciplinary/interinstitutional efforts to improve understanding of etiopathogenesis (molecular genetics) and treatment of AVMs.**