



Preface

Why change a book that consistently sells well, even after 20 years? Despite the passage of time, this book is surprisingly current; the basic concepts and techniques originally described are as valid today as they were when this work was first published. Nevertheless, there are valid reasons for revising and updating, and these are twofold: time marches on, and knowledge expands. So this new edition represents the culmination of years of experience devoted to finding reconstructive solutions for problems both simple and complex. This has always been a fascinating endeavor for me, not only because of the challenge of putting the pieces of a puzzle back together, but because of the truly transforming nature of head and neck surgery on the patients we treat. It is my hope to convey some of this enthusiasm in this new edition and to reflect on the lessons I have learned over the years in confronting and solving these problems.

What is new in this edition? The most dramatic change is in the addition of color throughout, which increases the impact of the medical illustrations and photographs and provides a three-dimensional perspective that contributes to a better understanding of many of the repairs that are described. Another important addition is the summary tables that conclude each of the chapters focusing on reconstruction of a specific anatomic area. These provide insight into the rationale and decision-making process involved when choosing the best flap option for a specific reconstructive problem. Some of the more distant local head and neck flaps have also been added for completeness. There are also numerous new cases with detailed operative sequences describing the design and elevation of these flaps. Additionally, I have included annotated references to promote further reading on this topic.

The most significant additions to this book are two new chapters: one on tissue expansion and the other on problems and complications. Tissue expansion is a significant tool for the reconstructive surgeon and is particularly important in head and neck reconstruction, where skin quality, texture, and color have a major impact on the final aesthetic result. This technique represents a tremendous advance in facial resurfacing, because it provides local skin and subcutaneous tissue for reconstruction. No longer are we unable to perform our preferred reconstruction because of skin insufficiency; we simply expand the chosen skin area to the size required to perform the reconstruction. Because the skin is frequently thin and supple, this brings a degree of ease to our reconstructive efforts. Tissue expansion has made a significant

contribution to advancing the use of local flaps in head and neck reconstruction. This chapter fully explores the range of expansion applications in the head and neck, as well as my personal approach to using exterior ports, with patients or their parents performing the expansion for a quicker and less costly approach to the expansion process.

The chapter devoted to problems and complications covers the range of common situations encountered during head and neck reconstruction, discusses why these problems occur, and offers practical solutions for addressing complications should they occur. Also covered in this chapter are a number of tricks and innovations that have proved helpful in the head and neck area and elsewhere, such as the use of scarlet red (an amazing healing material) in epithelialization and wound healing, the treatment of cocaine fistulas, and the repair of split earlobes.

In planning this edition, I seriously contemplated adding a section on free flaps. These are extremely useful in large head and neck reconstructions, particularly when compared with the staged techniques of the past. As true reconstructions, they leave much to be desired, but this is improving as we become more sophisticated in their design. They can be used to close a defect, but the skin color and texture may not be satisfactory. In addition to this, their bulk requires later modification. After considerable thought and consultation with colleagues, I decided not to include microsurgical flaps in this new edition. There were a number of reasons. Most compelling was my desire to appeal to the broadest possible audience, recognizing that there are many surgeons who do not perform microsurgical procedures. Local flaps are of interest to residents and experienced surgeons alike, regardless of whether they perform free flaps. Local flaps are also the basic foundation of reconstructive surgery, and knowledge of them is essential when closing any defect, however small. Nevertheless, I am also aware of the substantial interest in this subject by young surgeons in training, those entering practice, and others who are more experienced. To address that interest, further information on microsurgery in head and neck reconstruction will be forthcoming in a second companion volume edited by Drs. Peter C. Neligan and Fu-Chan Wei, scheduled for publication next year.

Writing a book is enormously time consuming, representing time away from family and practice. There are never enough hours in the day. So why do it? For me, the answer is obvious: it is an educational opportunity and a chance to convey lessons learned from many years of experience. My hope is that this new edition will prove as helpful as the previous one to plastic surgeons and others who perform facial surgery.

