Author’s response to reviews

Title: The study of expanded tri-lobed flap in a rabbit model: Possible flap model in ear reconstruction?

Authors:

Dr Eray Copcu (copcu@lycos.com)
Mesut Yazici (myazici@adu.edu.tr)
Barlas Etensel (betensel@adu.edu.tr)
Yakup Yurekli (yyurekli@adu.edu.tr)
Muharrem Balkaya (mbalkaya@adu.edu.tr)

Version: 3 Date: 17 Oct 2003

PDF covering letter
Responses to the reviewers:

**Reviewer:** Takatoshi Yotsuyanagi

Dear Professor Yotsuyanagi,

Thank you very much for your excellent comments. I totally agree with your comments. Title of manuscript was changed as “The **study of expanded tri-lobed flap in a rabbit model: Possible flap model in ear reconstruction?**”

Again, thank you very much for your comments.

**Reviewer:** Raymund E. Horch

Dear Professor Horch,

Thank you very much for your comments. Responses to your comments were listed below:

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The data are sound but not well controlled. There are no statistical evaluations…
   Answer: Since we could performed this study with low number of animals we could not performed statistical analysis but we added the ratio of viable areas of flaps in table 1. Although we there is no statistical analysis we believe that our results can be assessed as “significant” since there was no animal which had a viable flap areas more than 50%.

2. Conclusion that do not fit into…
   Answer: Conclusion was revised as “It can be concluded that tri-lobed flaps can be obtained successfully although they cause some risks due to their sizes. Since tri-lobed flap can achieve an epithelized tissue in two sides of an organ as in the ears, they can be alternative in partial or total ear reconstruction.
Any process without a framework can not be a model for ear reconstruction. Although we had only one rabbit with alloplastic material in expanded group, we speculated that this flap may be used with autogenous and alloplastic materials.

A new ear which is erect, sufficiently angled and thin and thus easily adapted to the shape of the framework, and resistant to external traumas could be reconstructed with this flap without any donor site problems. Finally, this flap is not only suitable for ear reconstruction but also it may be used in reconstruction of cylindrical organs such as penis or finger.”

3. The authors claim that they have developed a unique animal model……..

Answer: I totally agree with you. The main aim of this study was to create a flap model in ear reconstruction in animal model. The structure of the manuscript was changed according to your comments.

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless ..
Answer: The language and grammar of the manuscript was revised and corrected by the professional translator.

**Reviewer:** Ian T. Jackson

Dear Professor Jackson,

Thank you very much for your excellent comments.

Discretionary Revisions: There are multiple spelling errors….
Answer: The language and grammar of the manuscript was revised and corrected by the professional translator

Major Compulsory revisions:
As the manuscript is at moment , it is not publishable because of the English…:
Answer: Manuscript was totally revised all grammars of the sentences were corrected.
The ratios of viable areas of the flaps were enclosed as Table 1 as you requested.
In this study, we tried to perform a flap model for the ear reconstruction. Since full thickness ear reconstruction (two epithelized surfaces) can be created with tri-lobed flap we concluded that this flap may be suitable for ear reconstruction. We performed only one framework with Medpor implant for the assessment of the resistance of flap to the alloplastic material in one rabbit. But we believed that further studies will be necessary for this aim. Whole message of the manuscript was changed according to your comments.