

2019 WSLs Poster 014

LYMPHEDEMA SURGERY USING VASCULARIZED LYMPH NODE FREE FLAP IN UPPER EXTREMITIES: 03 CASES REPORT FROM VIETNAM

Duong Tran V.

drduong2001@yahoo.com

There is around new 11000 patients diagnosed with breast cancer and 5000 deaths reported due to breast cancer annually in Vietnam. The incidence of cases suffering from lymphedema after mastectomy is increasing. However, lymphedema is not taken care enough and the patients have to suffer for the rest of their lives. Very few cases are noticed and search for treatment in our country.

Objectives: Evaluate the effectiveness of lymphedema surgery using vascularized lymph node flap in upper extremities.

Methods and patients: 03 lymphedema cases were included. Patients were treated using vascularized lymph node flap harvested together with DIEP flap used for breast reconstruction. Firstly, 4 – 6 lymph nodes were dissected along with vascular pedicle. Then DIEP was harvested including the vascular pedicle and lymph nodes. The thoracodorsal pedicle was the recipient site for the DIEP and a small pedicle in the axillary area was the recipient site for the lymph nodes pedicle. We measured the circumference of the upper arms and arms before the operation and after operation 06 months and 01 years.

Results: all cases were satisfied and improved the symptoms. The circumference of the affected sides was reduced significantly.

Conclusion: vascularized lymph node flap was an effective treatment for lymphedema in upper extremities.

Keywords: lymphedema in upper extremities, vascularized lymph node flap