

## Cervical Lymphatic tissue as an alternative donor site for the microsurgical treatment of secondary lymphedema in limbs

"Introduction: Lymphedema is characterized by the accumulation of lymph in the interstitial tissue, leading to limb deformities, mobility problems, infections, and reduced self-esteem, collectively reducing patients' quality of life. Since 2016, microsurgery the transfer of vascularized lymphatic tissue from the neck as a donor area emerged as a notable surgical treatment option. Objective: Describe cervical lymph nodes as a donor area option for vascularized tissue transfer in lymphedema surgeries. Methods: Five microsurgical procedures were performed to transfer lymphatic tissue from cervical stages Ib, III or IV as the donor site. Patient Outcomes were evaluated from 15 to 180 days postoperatively through metric and photographic documentation. Results: In this study, complete improvement in measurements of certain parts of the affected limb were observed in two of the five patients (100% improvement). Two patients experienced an improvement of more than 50%. A patient, lost to follow-up, showed no improvement. Conclusion: Lymphatic tissue of the cervix appears to be a viable donor site for the surgical treatment of lymphedema in members. This method can produce promising future results, constituting a new area of practice for head and neck surgeons."