

## Chapter 1

# Introduction

Sir Harold Gilles is credited with the “Gilles concept”; he stated “the more adjacent the donor site is, the better the skin will match the recipient site.”<sup>1</sup>

The overarching goal of all surgeons involved in reconstruction of head and neck defects is not only to reestablish the facial form and function but also to return the patient to a near pre-injury or pre-resection esthetics.

Today, the era of microvascular reconstructive surgery is well grounded in the vernacular of the reconstructive surgeon as well as the increasingly more educated and demanding public. One of the undisputed concepts in head and neck reconstruction is that whenever possible, one should strive to reconstruct the skin defects with tissues that more closely resemble the missing tissue not only in color but also in thickness and texture.

Equally important in the reconstructive discussion is to keep in mind the needs of our patients and their ability to undergo a more extensive reconstruction using free tissue transfer. In these cases as well as those where the free tissue transfer has failed, the use of pedicled local or regional flaps is an important aspect of the armamentarium of reconstructive surgeons.

The goal of this textbook is to provide readers with a practical guide on how to raise and inset a vast array of pedicle local and regional flaps to reconstruct various defects of the head and neck. The author uses actual clinical cases to depict each step in the process of raising a flap. The potential sites where the surgeon may encounter difficulties are discussed and ways to avoid potential problems are shared.

The book has four parts: the first is dedicated to fundamental concepts in flap reconstruction, the second to local flaps, the third is devoted to regional flaps, while the last part covers sites in the head and neck that are challenging to reconstruct.

Each chapter is structured to provide a “practical” description of the flap and a succinct description on how to raise the flap, sections on the anatomy of the flap and harvesting, and selected chapters also include a special circumstances section. Selected readings are given at the end of each chapter and comprise the author’s choice of some important articles devoted to the flap being presented. Each chapter is well illustrated with clinical images of the flaps.

In addition to the text in the book, a set of CD-ROMs with selected videos is included, highlighting the key steps in raising flaps and how to use them in the head and neck.

The author and the publisher are very proud to present this book to help trainees, junior faculty, and practicing surgeons in disciplines such as dermatology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, otolaryngology, and plastic surgery.

### Reference

1. Gilles HD. The tubed pedicle in plastic surgery. *NY Med J* 1920; 111:1.