

Cross-leg free muscle flaps for reconstruction of open fractures of the tibia.

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Abstract:

In two patients in whom the injured leg was not suitable for reconstruction using a routine free tissue transfer, a cross-leg free muscle flap was used, i.e. the vessels of a free muscle flap were anastomosed to donor vessels on the uninjured leg and the muscle flap used to reconstruct a defect on the opposite leg. Both operations were successful, with the transferred muscle becoming well vascularized from the recipient bed at the site of injury. In both cases, use of the uninjured leg to transfer the free flap caused minimal morbidity.