Simple technique of interdigital mattress sutures in unilobed groin flap for multiple digit avulsion/degloving injury

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We recently came across a case of avulsion injury of fingers following trauma by fodder cutting machine. Various methods of using pedicled groin flap or abdominal flap for coverage for such circumferential defects include large abdominal quadrant flaps¹, bilobed groin flaps² and a large abdominal flap including pedicles of named vessels³. We raised a large pedicled abdominal flap including territories of superficial circumflex iliac artery and superficial inferior epigastric artery for coverage by wrapping it around the defect after extensive debridement. We put mattress sutures after inset that went through and through using bolsters made of small paraffin gauze rolls in interdigital spaces in the flap. This technique should aid easy coverage of individual digits after division of flap for phalangealization and avoid the need of a skin graft for resurfacing the defect at the same time. It is a simple, zero cost technique but will contribute significantly in the final cosmetic result.

Fig. 1: Ventral aspect of defect

Fig. 2: After, flap inset. Use of through and through mattress sutures using bolsters made of small paraffin gauze rolls in interdigital spaces in the flap shown

References