

Mandible Reconstruction in Cancer Patients

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Reconstruction of the mandible presents a unique challenge to the oncologic reconstructive surgeon. Essential functions of deglutition, mastication, speech, and retention of saliva are all inherently incumbent on a functioning and intact mandibular arch. Use of vascularized bone by means of free tissue transfer has facilitated our ability to reconstruct large segmental losses of the mandible.

This presentation will describe general principles of the mandible reconstruction, and give some insight into how these procedures can be performed with a high degree of reliability and consistency. Advances and controversies surrounding the mandible reconstruction will be discussed. Our approach to mandible reconstruction at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center will be presented.