

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1

The authors should be congratulated on their attempt to understand the surgical delay in abdominal-based breast reconstruction. It would be helpful if the authors could provide a few specific recommendations based on their literature review for the indications of surgical delay.

Reply 1

We have written a section (Page 7, Lines 252-257) on what the findings of our review suggest are indications for delay: in that delay provides benefit to flap survival, which may of particular use in high-risk patients who smoke or are obese. acknowledging that it's difficult to make definitive statements given the lack of available data.

Comment 2

It would be helpful to include to diagram/picture of the various methods of surgical delay and their outcomes. It would supplement table # 4.

Reply 2

We do not have access to a medical illustrator, but we have expanded Table 4 to reflect each study technique's outcomes. We have also written a few lines (Page 7, Lines 246-250) to make clear the limited utility in comparing techniques given the current lack of data, and heterogeneity in reported outcomes

Comment 3

Is there any indication where CT Angio or High-frequency US could be use as for perforator evaluation prior or after surgical delay?

Reply 3

We have expanded on the role of CTA as the modality of choice in preoperative perforator evaluation, and discussed arguments involving the use of doppler and duplex US (Page 6, Lines 227-234)

Reviewer B

Comment 1

Some more analysis and expansion in the discussion section will be more valuable. Especially expansion on choke vessel pathophysiology and some more details on norepinephrine effect on the delay mechanism, to enhance the already mentioned points.

Reply 1

We expanded on delay-induced physiological changes in choke vessel anatomy that results in improved flap survivability (Page 6, Lines 202-209)

We added some more detail on the mechanisms by which noradrenaline levels change following delay (Page 6, Lines 216-218). We hope this explanation, in conjunction with our discussion of metabolic changes immediately following this section, adequately explains the delay mechanism for the purposes of this paper.