

REFERENCE

1. Tan, K. C., and Tan, B. K. Angiosomes and extension of skin flaps: Anatomic study and clinical implication. *Key Issues Plast. Cosmetic Surg.* 16: 91, 1999.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF SHAVING AVULSED SCALP BEFORE REPLANTATION

Sir:

Replantation of avulsed scalp has become the treatment of choice in cases in which microsurgical facility is available (Fig. 1, *above, left*). The first step in replantation is the preparation of scalp. This involves shaving of scalp and isolation of vessels. After shaving, loose hairs get stuck to the inner surface of the scalp. This is the most common problem experienced in this stage. Removal of hair stuck to the inner surface is time-consuming and tedious.

We have devised a simple technique of shaving the scalp. First the avulsed scalp is washed thoroughly to remove all dirt and foreign particles. Then it is placed on the sides of a cylindrical plastic container (Fig. 1, *above, right*). The inner surface of the scalp sticks to the container snugly. Shaving is started from one edge to the other and is carried out from top to bottom. The scalp is not removed from the container until all hair is shaved; in this way no loose hair comes in contact with the inner surface (Fig. 1, *below*). This saves considerable

time in preparing the scalp for replantation. This technique could also find use in cases in which the surgeon prefers clipping of hair to shaving.

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ONE-STAGE RECONSTRUCTION IN HUMAN BITE INJURIES OF EARLOBE AND LOWER HELICAL RIM

Sir:

Human bites causing full-thickness defects of the ear lobe and the lower helical rim are commonly encountered and present an intriguing challenge for the plastic surgeon. The cutaneous preauricular pedicled flap was described by Pennisi et al. in 1965.¹ The flap has been previously used for the reconstruction of earlobe defects in conjunction with posterior open-door type transfer of the defect marginal skin.² The preauricular flap is normally transferred as a tubed pedicle flap in a two-stage procedure for reconstruction of the middle and upper portions of the auricle.³ In centrally located auricular defects, the dog-ear caused by the transposition of the flap can aid in the

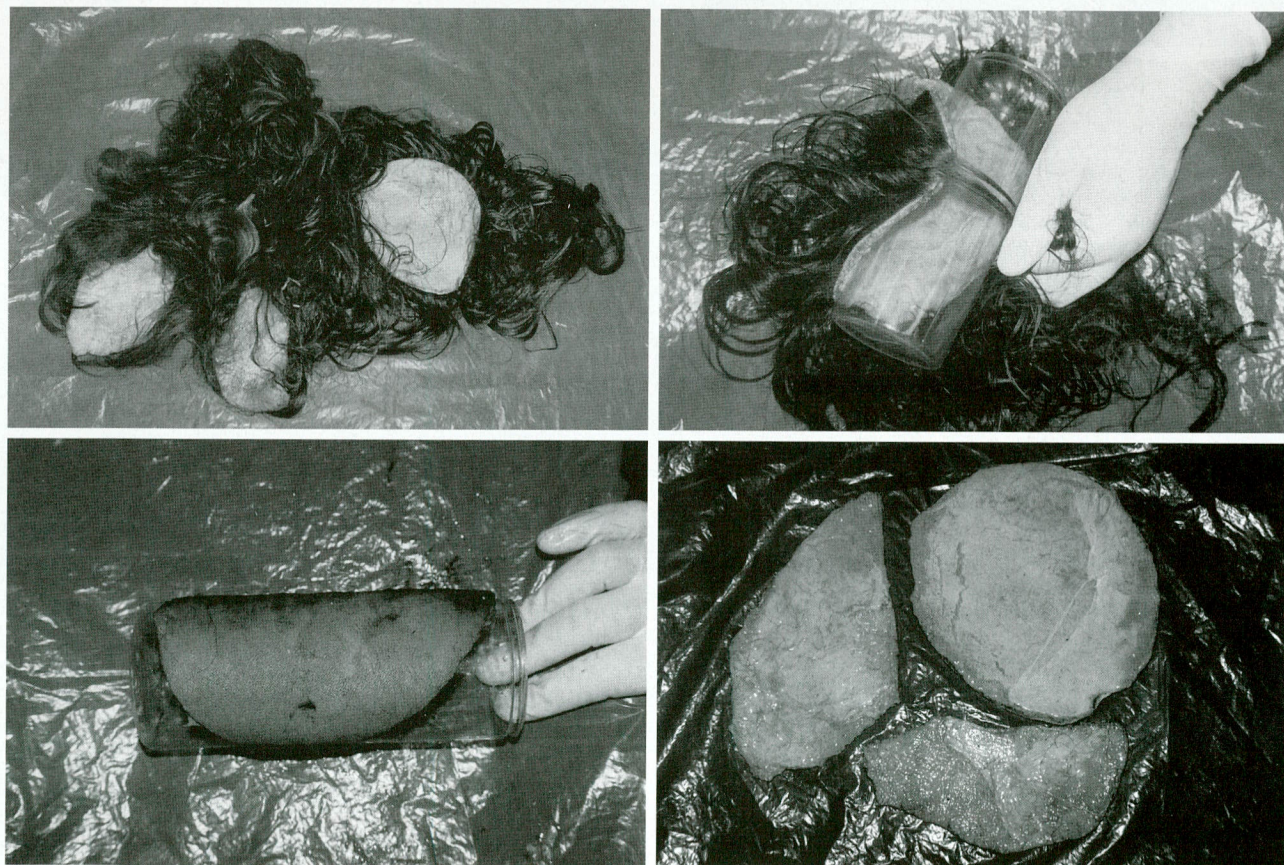


FIG. 1. (*Above, left*) Avulsed scalp with hair. (*Above, right*) Scalp applied on a cylindrical plastic container before shaving. (*Below, left*) Shaved scalp secured to the plastic cylinder after shaving. (*Below, right*) The clean inner surface of the scalp after shaving.