

INTRODUCTION TO
PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGERY



KYAW NAING



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KYAW NAING

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PREFACE

The term plastic comes from Greek word *plasticos* which means easily shaped and introduced in the early 19th century. Graefe used the term “rhinoplastik” to describe a method of reconstructing the nose using skin from the forehead, and Langenbeck used “Organische plastik” to describe a branch of surgical reconstruction using living tissue as opposed to artificial prosthesis. Thus plastic surgery became that part of surgery concerned with the living replacement of parts usually involving the movement of skin either by making it more mobile or by a transplantation using skin grafts (Zeiss 1838).

Today a plastic surgeon’s repertoire extends beyond the skin to include surgery on blood vessels, nerves, tendons, muscles, cartilage and bone. With the development of microsurgery, reconstructive surgery becomes more promising by using Free Flaps. Hence, plastic and reconstructive surgery becomes more complex and requiring a team approach. Apart from congenital and cancer repairs, cosmetic surgery is booming because of the increased demand not only in the West but also in the East for example in South Korea, 50% of the young generation had done cosmetic surgery.

Kyaw Naing
School of Medicine
Universiti Malaysia Sabah
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