



Advanced Autologous Lower Dermal Sling Technique For Implant-Based Immediate Breast Reconstruction Surgery In Small And Non-Ptotic Breasts

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Background:

Immediate Breast Reconstruction Surgery (IBRS) on small breasts is a surgical challenge. Use of ADMs is common in such settings. Given the lack of access to ADMs in India, we have adopted two IBRS techniques via (a) Placement of implant in sub-muscular pocket (conventional) (2) Advanced Autologous Lower Dermal Sling (A-ALDS) Technique. Herein, we describe our experiences on the application of A-ALDS in small, non-ptotic breasts.

Methods:

A-ALDS technique involves mobilizing skin from lower thoracic and upper abdominal wall to create a vascularized flap-cover over the implant in situ. In our study cohort of 24 women with small breasts, 16 women underwent A-ALDS-based IBRS (Group A) while remaining 8 (Group B) underwent conventional IBRS. A-ALDS technique was used for breast cup size of B or smaller. Study cohort was evaluated after 12 months post-surgery for oncological outcomes.

Results:

Mean age of patients in Group A and Group B was 46.4 and 40.7 years, respectively. Mean weight of mastectomy specimen in Group A was 278 (range 220 – 340 gm) while that in Group B was 243 (range 128 – 300 gm). In both groups, excellent aesthetic results were observed without any implant loss. Rate of post-IBRS complications was lower in Group A.

Conclusions:

A-ALDS technique is a safe and effective IBRS approach in small-breasted women with dual advantage of additional vascularity and mechanical stability to the implant. This technique may provide a cost-effective alternative to ADM-based IBRS particularly in low-resource developing countries. Long-term follow-up studies in this study cohort are underway with the use of clinical assessment tools and PROMs.