

Abstract

Update: Dermofasciectomy and full-thickness grafts in the treatment of Dupuytren's contracture: A thirty-six year study

Purpose: Dupuytren's disease frequently results in crippling deformities of the hands and has a high incidence of recurrence after limited fasciectomy. We report a 36 year experience with full-thickness grafts to resurface defects created by releasing Dupuytren's contractures with dermofasciectomy.

Methods: Dermofasciectomy and full-thickness skin grafts were used in 153 patients on 204 hands with Dupuytren's contractures from 1970 to 2005.

Results: Our first study followed 36 hands in 24 patients for an average of 3.9 years post-operatively between 1970-1985. There was no recurrent disease in the palms or digits covered by the full-thickness grafts. The incidence of extension outside the grafts was 8.3%. That study was continued from 1985-2005. An additional 168 hands in 129 patients were treated with the same procedure and followed an average of 2.8 years post-operatively. Again, there was no recurrent disease in the palms or digits covered by the grafts and the extension rate was comparable at 9.5 %.

Conclusions: This 36 year study of 204 hands demonstrates the validity of using dermofasciectomy and full-thickness grafts in the treatment of patients with Dupuytren's contracture who are likely to develop recurrent disease.

Type of study/level of evidence: Therapeutic 1.