

## **A Clinical Study on the Versatility of Lateral Supra Malleolar Flap in Lower Limb Wound Reconstruction**

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**Abstract :** Objective: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the versatility and outcome of lateral supra malleolar flap (LSMF) in soft tissue reconstruction of the regions including the distal leg, ankle, dorsal foot and heel. Methods: From March 2021 to April 2023, 18 patients with soft tissue defects in the regions, including the distal leg, ankle, dorsal foot and heel, who underwent LSMF repair for lower limb wound reconstruction were analyzed. The location, size of the defects, etiology, outcome, complications, and other alternative options were studied and presented. Results: The follow-up period of the cases was 3-6 months after surgery. All flaps were successful; however, one flap was complicated by venous congestion and was managed by loosening a few sutures and the patient was required to elevate the affected limb to resolve the issue. Conclusion: The LSMF has numerous advantages in repairing soft tissue defects in areas involving the ankle, distal leg, heel and dorsum of the foot. In comparison to reverse sural flaps for repairing defects in the heel and lower leg, LSMF offers shorter operation time, shorter hospitalization, lower cost, and fewer postoperative complications.

**Keywords :** lateral supra malleolar flap, LSMF, soft tissue reconstruction, lower leg defect

**Conference Title :** ICPSMAP 2023 : International Conference on Plastic Surgery and Medical Aesthetic Practice

**Conference Location :** New York, United States

**Conference Dates :** December 11-12, 2023