

CLINICS IN PLASTIC SURGERY

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Symposium on

SURGERY OF THE HAND

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Because the basic reaction of tissue to injury alters physical properties by replacing normal structures with scar, a thorough understanding of wound healing reactions and scar formation forms the biological foundation on which hand surgery rests.

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The principles of hand coverage following injury are illustrated—to achieve, by the simplest methods appropriate to the circumstances, the replacement of lost tissue similar or nearly similar in quality to that lost and to accomplish this with as little morbidity and as little donor area scar as possible, and as expeditiously as is consonant with the best results.

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The reconstructive surgeon who wishes to learn microsurgery must realize that its acquisition demands extensive practice in the research laboratory with clinical application occurring after perfection of the fundamental techniques.

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Harry J. Buncke

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Neurovascular free flaps may enable us to transform a useless appendage into a functional gripping hand. Sensory mapping techniques can greatly assist the surgeon in precisely defining new donor sites for these transfers.

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The authors describe general considerations relative to free flap transfers, introduce their operative technique of free flap transfers, and outline some of their representative cases. The advantages and disadvantages of free flap transfers are also set forth.

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Martin A. Entin

While rehabilitation of the hand is seldom needed for children with cutaneous syndactyly, the severe deformities associated with complex syndactyly often require supervision in order to regain potential function. Simple dynamic splints are helpful in this regard.

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Alfred B. Swanson

In finger-joint arthroplasty, the proper amounts of flexion-extension, appropriate lateral move-

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ment, and reduction of dorsopalmar subluxation are difficult to obtain but necessary for a good result. A flexible implant must therefore maintain internal alignment and spacing of the reconstructed joint while early motion is started, with the implant acting as a dynamic spacer.

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