

Book review

Mandibular Reconstruction (1997)

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Reconstruction of the mandible has been and still is a major challenge to the surgeon, with over 1000 medical articles attesting the difficulties encountered in its replacement. New techniques do not seem to replace the older ones in every respect, and this book highlights a need for a compilation of old and new techniques in one source. The intention is that surgeons from related disciplines of otolaryngology, general surgery, and plastic and oral and maxillofacial surgery can find most techniques of mandibular reconstruction in this book.

The authors are well-known, experienced surgeons, mainly otolaryngologists from different centres in the USA. The first part of the book focuses on the evolution of mandibular reconstruction with a history and review of the literature, followed by the indications for reconstruction. The following chapters describe different techniques

with trays and bone grafts, metal plates with and without bone grafts, osteocutaneous flaps and free flaps from the fibula and the iliac crest. Restoration of the mandibular continuity is just one facet of mandibular reconstruction. The importance of restoring mandibular function and rehabilitation is emphasized and discussed. Dental implants, distraction osteogenesis and bone morphogenic proteins in mandibular reconstruction are described. Each of the ten chapters ends with a brief, but updated reference list.

This textbook is not complete, but it is well arranged and gives an excellent survey of this complicated (field of) surgery. The book is easy to read and the figures in black and white are of good quality. It can be recommended to every professional who wishes to orientate himself in this specialist field.

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