LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TRANSCOLUMELLAR SCARS

Dear Sir,

Oh no! Another article complaining about the “controversial” transcolumellar scar from the open rhinoplasty technique! Presumably, the surgeon who is horrified at making a transcolumellar scar would never consider doing an alar base resection, let alone excise a mole from the nose!

A transcolumellar scar becomes apparent if the delicate cartilages are damaged at the time of dissection. If they are notched, a notch will appear (not surprisingly) when the scar is healed. The problem is rather easily handled by extending the base of a tip graft so that it extends beyond the site of the transcolumellar incision.

That aside, the modified open rhinoplasty as described by Glickman and Lee (Can J Plast Surg 1993;1(3):131-6) is a nice modification of the open rhinoplasty which might be useful in some cases. One main drawback (as has been pointed out by the authors) is that the cartilages are still distorted during the exposure. I think this is occasionally a significant disadvantage as compared to a transcolumellar open technique where the cartilages are not distorted in any way during the exposure for surgery (ie, sutures and grafts).

*Dr Claudio de Lorenzi
Kitchener, Ontario*

Readers are encouraged to submit letters on all aspects relating to plastic surgery, on the understanding that they may be subject to amendment at the Editor's discretion

Editor