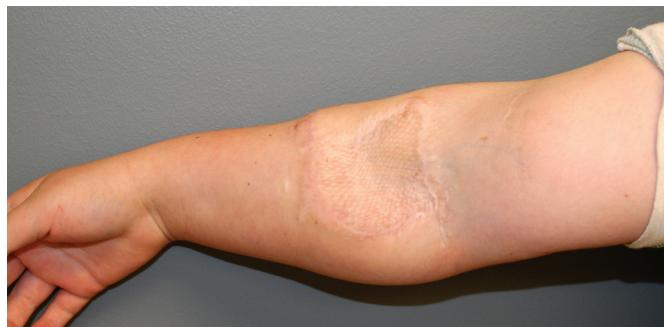


Brian C. Reuben, MD - Plastic Surgeon, Intermountain Healthcare, Salt Lake City, UT

A 16 year old woman was involved in an ATV crash in the summer of 2010. She sustained an olecranon fracture and developed necrosis of the skin over the antecubital fossa on the volar right forearm. She underwent multiple procedures for stabilization of her fractures and eventually required split thickness skin grafting of the antecubital wound. Unfortunately, she developed tethering of the skin graft to the underlying muscle. This was tender with movement of her wrist and it was also cosmetically bothersome to her. She presented with her mother to my office for reconstructive options for this area. The scar from her previous surgeries extends dorsally across the forearm and into the antecubital fossa area where there is a skin graft which is approximately 8 x 8cm. With flexion and extension of her wrist, there is tethering of the skin graft to the underlying flexor muscle bellies.

We discussed the benefits of external tissue expansion with the DermaClose RC device, which could enable us to remove the grafted area and advance an adipofascial flap of tissue to protect the underlying muscles and prevent the painful tethering. She underwent reconstruction of the site with partial excision of the graft and placement of the DermaClose external tissue expander. This technique of leaving the center portion of the graft in place was a safety measure if full re-approximation was not achieved. Four days later, she underwent removal of the device, near complete excision of the graft and advancement of the surrounding tissue was performed. She has been photographed at 1 month and 3 months out from surgery. The wound has remained closed and nearly 95% of the graft was excised with this unique approach. The patient is extremely happy with both the aesthetics of her arm as well the improved function.



Resulting skin graft from initial wound



Skin graft is tethering to muscle



Removal of remaining skin graft prior to closure



Day 4 - Post DermaClose application



Day 30 - Post op



Day 30 - Post op



Day 90 - Post op



Day 90 - Post op tethering result

DERMAClose® RC
Continuous External Tissue Expander

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