

OUTCOMES OF AUTOLOGOUS BREAST RECONSTRUCTION USING FREE TISSUE TRANSFER

A retrospective study of surgical and patient-reported outcomes at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Peshawar

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OBJECTIVE

To evaluate patient-reported satisfaction and quality of life after free-tissue-transfer breast reconstruction following mastectomy at SKMCH&RC Peshawar using the Modified KNUH BREAST-Q. Secondary outcomes were flap survival and revision surgery.

METHODS

Study design: Retrospective descriptive study combining chart review with a cross-sectional telephone interview.

Setting: Department of Surgical Oncology, SKMCH&RC Peshawar.

Sampling: Census sampling of eligible patients. The final dataset included 19 patients and 20 free-tissue transfers because one patient underwent bilateral reconstruction.

Data collection: Clinical and operative variables were extracted from hospital records. Patient-reported outcomes were obtained by telephone after verbal consent using the Modified KNUH BREAST-Q.

Analysis: Descriptive statistics; patient-level outcomes used n=19 and flap-level outcomes used n=20.

STUDY POPULATION

CHARACTERISTIC	RESULT	
Patients	19	
Free-tissue flaps	20	
Age, mean ± SD	37.4 ± 8.5 y	
BMI, mean ± SD	25.8 ± 4.1	
Neoadjuvant chemotherapy	15/19 (78.9%)	
Immediate reconstruction	16/19 (84.2%)	

PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOME ASSESSMENT

- Telephone interviews completed after verbal consent.
- Modified KNUH BREAST-Q administered using the study appendix form.
- Domain scores recorded as an overall satisfaction category.
- No patient-level identifiers are presented.

RECONSTRUCTION PROFILE

RECONSTRUCTION	n	%
DIEP flap	14/19	73.7
PAP flap	5/19	26.3
Immediate	16/19	84.2
Delayed	3/19	15.8

FLAP OUTCOMES

OUTCOME	n / 20	%
Successful	16	80.0
Salvaged / revised	1	5.0
Complete flap loss	2	10.0
Partial necrosis → LD flap	1	5.0

PERIOPERATIVE PROFILE

VARIABLE	RESULT	
Ischemia time	85.6 ± 28.6 min	
Blood transfusion	10/19 (52.6%)	
Smoking	0/19	
Documented comorbidity	3/19	
Flap weight	Variable	

PATIENT-REPORTED SATISFACTION

CATEGORY	n / 19	%
Excellent	14	73.7
Good	3	15.8
Fair	1	5.3
Poor	1	5.3
Good / excellent combined	17	89.5

KEY OUTCOMES

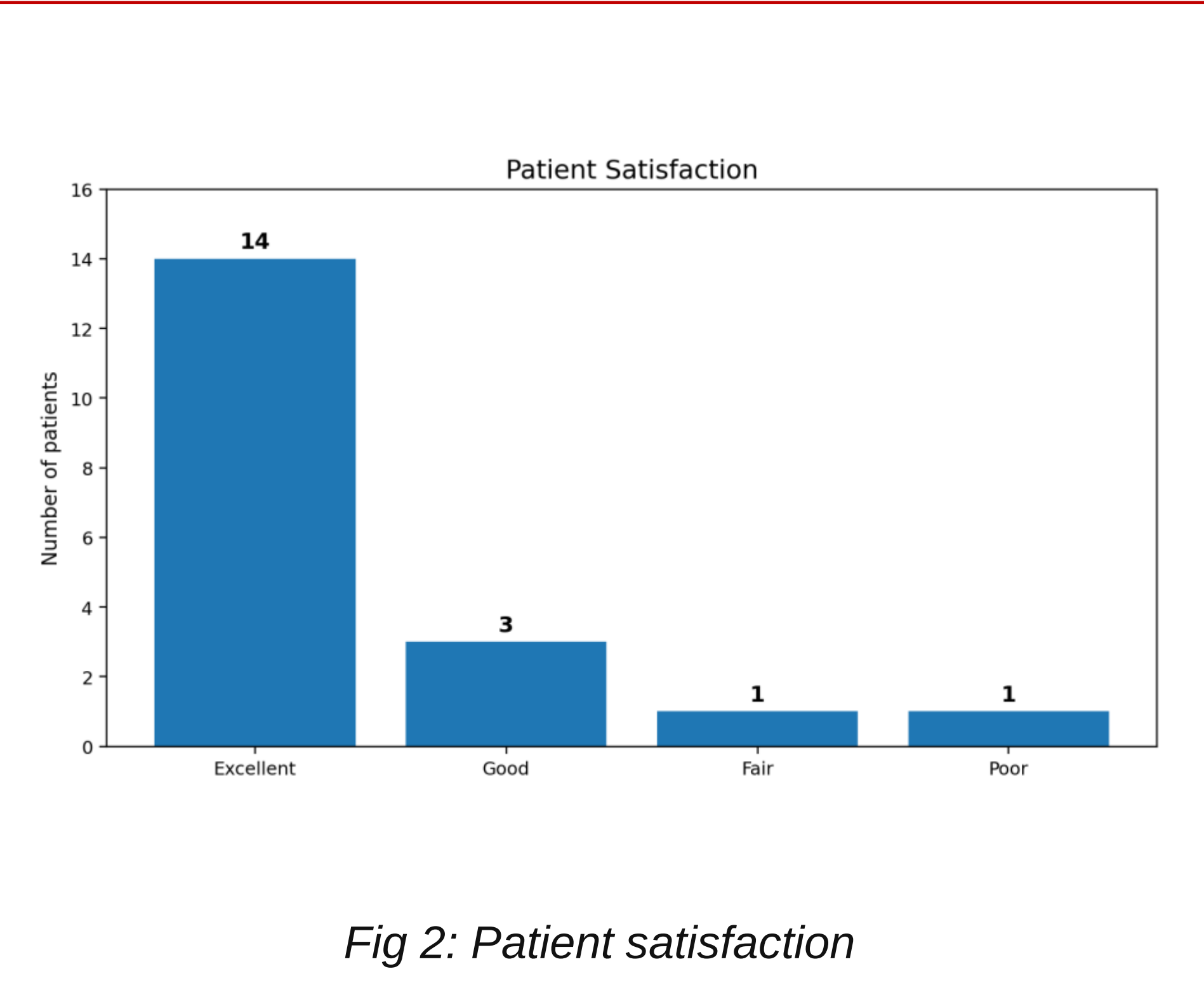
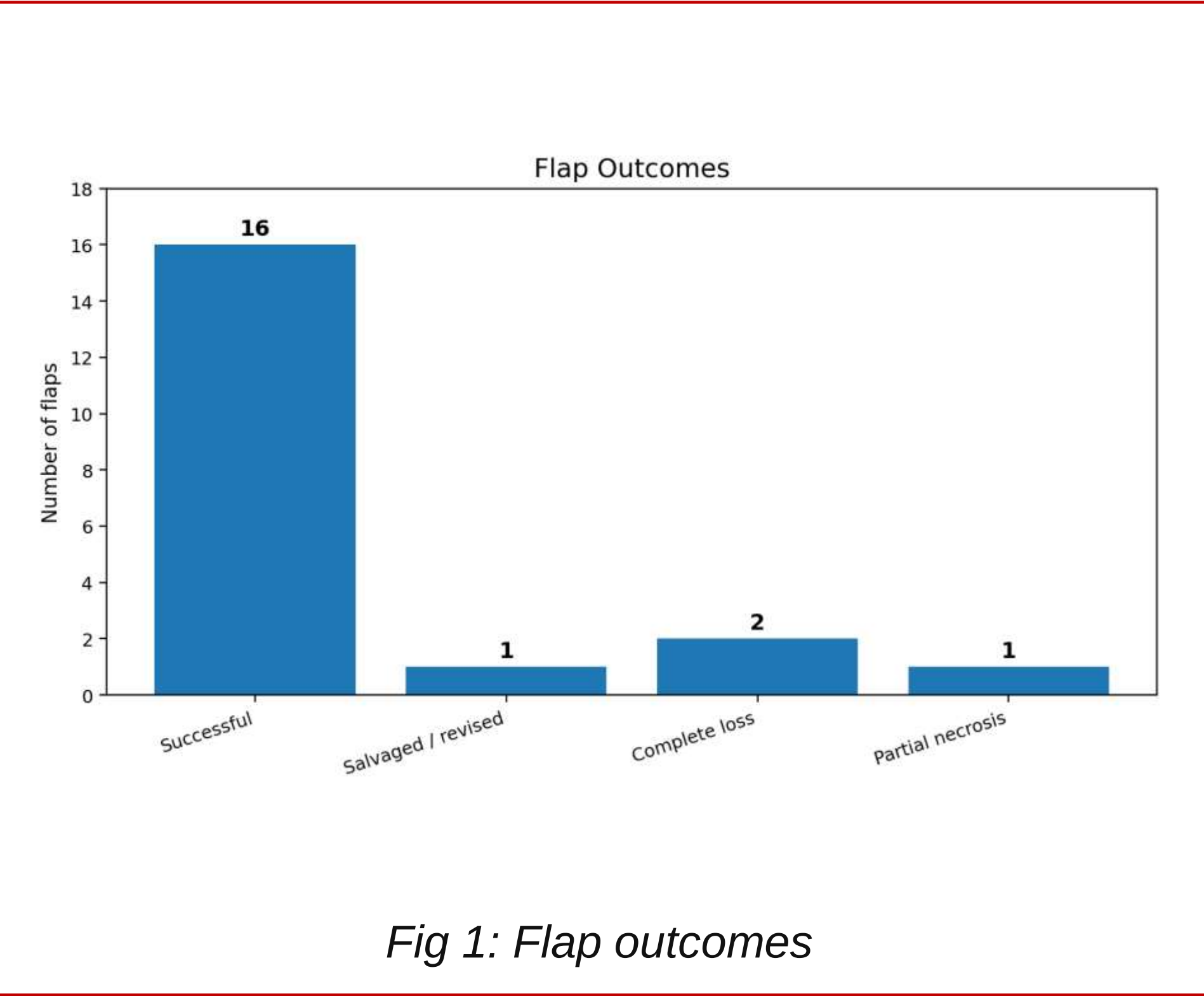
OUTCOME	VALUE	
Good / excellent satisfaction	17/19 (89.5%)	
Revision / salvage	1/20 (5%)	
Complete flap loss	2/20 (10%)	
Partial necrosis	1/20 (5%)	
DIEP reconstruction	14/19 (73.7%)	

RESULTS

Nineteen patients underwent 20 free-tissue transfers. DIEP was the predominant flap (14/19, 73.7%), while PAP accounted for 5/19 (26.3%). Most reconstructions were immediate (16/19, 84.2%).

At flap level, 16/20 (80%) were successful, 1/20 (5%) was salvaged after revision, 2/20 (10%) had complete flap loss, and 1/20 (5%) developed partial necrosis requiring an LD flap.

Patient-reported satisfaction was good or excellent in 17/19 (89.5%).



CONCLUSION

In this early institutional series from SKMCH&RC Peshawar, autologous breast reconstruction using free tissue transfer was associated with favorable patient-reported satisfaction, with 89.5% reporting good or excellent satisfaction. Most flaps were successful. These findings provide useful local data for patient counseling and future evaluation of reconstructive outcomes.

REFERENCES

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