

## Reconstruction Of Degloving Injury Of Index Finger With Groin Flap: A Case Report

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### INTRODUCTION:

Degloving injury is a type of avulsion injury caused usually by trauma. Reconstructing the surface of the hand with appropriately pliable and sensate skin while maintaining the functions as well as movements of the hand is a challenge that requires highly skilled orthopaedic surgeons. Currently, skin grafting and flaps are the gold standard of treatment for degloving injuries. This article aims to show that the Orthopaedic department of Melaka General Hospital is highly capable of managing degloving injuries.

### MATERIALS & METHODS:

The common options available for reconstructing a degloved finger are groin flap, abdominal flap, bilobed flap, quadrant flap, free vascularized flap and abdominal pocketing procedure. The abdominal pocketing procedure involves placing a degloved hand into a subcutaneous abdominal pocket. In this procedure, the abdominal pocketing procedure was used utilizing a groin flap to repair the degloving injury of the index finger.

### RESULTS:

**Figure1:** Right index finger with degloving injury up to metacarpophalangeal joint.



**Figure 2:** Right inguinal region marked with a length:width ratio of 3:1.



**Figure 3:** Medial flap and donor site closed around finger with simple interrupted sutures.



### DISCUSSION:

Degloving injuries can be defined as an injury sustained by an avulsing force leading to separation of the skin from its underlying tissues<sup>[1]</sup>. They can be classified into complete, where the skin is totally removed exposing the underlying structures; and partial, where some portion of skin still covers the underlying tissue<sup>[2]</sup>. These injuries are commonly seen in the hands of industrial workers<sup>[3]</sup>. In a non-complicated, non-amputated degloving injury of a single finger, reconstruction of the skin with a skin graft or flap is usually practiced. Care should be taken to provide skin that is functionally and cosmetically acceptable, while preventing contractures and allowing early mobilization<sup>[4]</sup>. Groin flaps are pedicled skin flaps based on the superficial circumflex iliac artery<sup>[5]</sup>. It is suitable to be used to repair single finger degloving injuries due to its thin and compliant nature

### CONCLUSION:

Groin flaps are not only very practical, but are also a cosmetically acceptable method for managing degloving injuries. It also gives the benefit of minimum donor site morbidity, hence there are lesser intra-operative and post-operative complications.

### REFERENCES:

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