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### Postoperative functional evaluation of different reanimation techniques for facial nerve repair

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#### Abstract

##### Background

The facial nerve function after facial-facial nerve anastomosis, grafting, hypoglossal-facial nerve anastomosis, hypoglossal-facial interpositional jump nerve anastomosis, or a combined approach was analyzed.

##### Methods

Facial function was assessed after operation using a 7-point visual analog scale (VAS) and by electromyography (EMG) in 53 patients. The final result was judged by May's facial nerve grading system.

## Results

Voluntary EMG activity occurred on average  $4.52 \pm 1.31$  months after operation. Initial facial movements were visible after  $5.41 \pm 1.80$  months. Facial function related to the VAS finally reached 44% of normal value. The result was judged Mayâ€™s grade I in 13%, grade II in 34%, grade III in 28%, and grade IV in 25% of patients. A significant difference in outcome between different reconstruction types was not seen. Age over 60 years was related to worse outcome.

## Conclusions

A correct selection of the best method in the individual situation presumed, all analyzed facial reanimation techniques seem to lead nearly similar and satisfactory results.



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## Keywords

Facial nerve; Facial paralysis; Nerve repair; Hypoglossal nerve; Nerve graft; Nerve anastomosis

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