Breast-conservation therapy (BCT) is now a standard procedure in early breast cancer which is proved to be safe and equivalent to mastectomy (1-3). Many clinical trial data has been published for more than three decades. Despite the fact that breast conservative surgery is suitable for most of the early breast cancer patients, there are still some limitations in patient selection such as the unfavorable tumor location. The central and medio-cranial breast cancer (no-man’s land) (4) is found 5–20% in all breast cancer and is more challenging in the cosmetic perspective as it may cause cosmetic unsatisfactory (5). Since the central located tumors has been report to have nipple areola complex (NAC) involvement, most of the time NAC resection is also required to achieve good oncologic outcome (6,7). The tumor in this location use to be one of the indication for mastectomy. Recently, the clinical trials have proved that breast conservative surgery in centrally located tumor is similar to those who undergo mastectomy (8). However, in this particular situation, lumpectomy alone with simple closure may cause the deformities of the breast. This highlights the concepts of ‘immediate partial reconstruction’ during the breast conservative surgery to be able to prevent the poor cosmetic sequelae (9).

Oncoplastic technique plays an important role in managing central located breast cancer since it gives the opportunity for wider surgical resection which leads to adequate margins and good oncological outcome while maintaining great cosmetic results and patient satisfaction (10). Several procedures have been described to overcome this problem (11-16). However, the most popular and might...
be the first technique to be described in literature was the Grisotti’s inferior dermoglandular flap. This technique was described by Galimberti et al. (16) and was derived from the reductive mammoplasty technique which base on the inferolateral glandular flap rotation and the skin island that replace the nipple areolar complex. This was proved to be useful and suitable for larger and ptotic breast (Figure 1A,B). However, in our experience, we adapt this technique to suit in non-ptosis moderated sized breast as well. In this study, we describe the case with retroareolar breast cancer in non ptotic breast. The patient underwent central quadrantectomy with sentinel lymph node biopsy. Reshaping the breast by using the vertical skin pattern technique with inferior dermoglandular flap is required to fill the defect after removing central volume of the breast from breast conservative surgery (BCS).

**Preoperative evaluation and surgical planning**

All patients underwent a physical examination preoperatively and postoperatively. The midsternal and midclavicular lines were marked before surgery as well as the inframammary folds with the patient in the standing position. These anatomical landmarks help the surgeon to define the ideal NAC position. The new NAC location was marked on the breast. The new position of NAC was planned to be 18 to 22 cm from the suprasternal notch. The medial and lateral incision were created by displacing the breast to superolateral and superomedial respectively and draw the line to connect from the dome shape area to the point where meridian line crossed with inframammary fold. This new NAC location was designed beneath the level of the ipsilateral NAC position with the patient’s arm at her side.

**Operative technique**

With the patient standing, the new NAC area was marked corresponding to the size of the existing NAC (Figure 2A). The skin area was carefully deepithelialized with a number-10 blade (Figure 2B), preserving the complete thickness of the dermis layer. The glandular breast tissue was routinely dissected very close to the dermis and 3 cm around the incision. This makes it possible to mobilize the flap upward to replace the old nipple areolar complex (Figure 2C). Central quadrantectomy with NAC removal was performed through a cutaneous incision located above the tumor site (Figure 2D). The patient was moved to a seated position and the new NAC location was determined. The skin island was then placed on the de-epithelialized bed (Figure 2E,F) and fixed with interrupted subcuticular 4-0 poliglecaprone suture around the edge of NAC area (Figure 2G). The patients were followed at the outpatient department and the inferior dermoglandular flap was examined on postoperative day 7 to 14 (Figure 2H,I).

A major disadvantage of our technique is the high-riding of the new NAC location (17) (Figure 3A,B) that can prevent by narrowing the vertical incision with limitation of skin removal above the original NAC.

In conclusion, a simple and effective technique of the inferior dermoglandular flap is presented, in combination with the vertical skin pattern. This combined method allows correction of the central located tumor and parenchyma.

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**Figure 1** Inferior dermoglandular flap in ptotic breast. (A) Preoperative view in preparation for central quadrantectomy with inferior dermoglandular flap at right breast and the “round block” mastopexy technique at left breast; (B) anterior view of the results at 6 weeks after performing right inferior dermoglandular flap and mastopexy of the opposite breast.
Figure 2 Surgical procedure. (A) Preoperative view of non-ptotic breast in preparation for left central quadrantectomy with inferior dermoglandular flap by using the vertical skin pattern; (B) anterior view of the designed area site after deepithelialization; (C) dissecting the glandular breast tissue 3 cm around the incision, this will facilitate the skin island to move upward for new NAC location; (D) anterior view of the central quadrantectomy with NAC removal; (E) the inferior dermoglandular flap was elevated superiorly to cover the defect at the level of the new NAC location and fixed with interrupted suture; (F) we fixed the inferior vertical incision with 5 or 7 interrupted staples at the edge of skin and designed the new NAC size; (G) immediate post-operative view after inferior dermoglandular flap by using the vertical skin pattern; (H) anterior view of the results at one month; (I) lateral view of the results at one month. NAC, nipple areola complex.
Figure 3 Hide-riding of new NAC location. (A) Preoperative planning photographs showing the area of flap design, the de-epithelialized skin flap superiorly and the vertical skin pattern inferiorly were too high and wide respectively; (B) postoperative view showing high-riding of the new NAC location which result from the flap designed in Figure 3A. NAC, nipple areola complex.

defect after BCS in all cases with acceptable results.

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Footnote

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