

## LEARNING FROM THE PAST, FACING THE FUTURE

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The experience from the four first facial transplantations because of this only few cases and the very short follow up do not allow any real extrapolation for the future. Very strange chimera is the facial transplant. Before its realisation, it aroused so many “scientific” papers, so many unanswerable statements.

Only four or five important papers were than been published in high level medical journals. So, could it be possible that no experience, no lessons could be pointed out: certainly not completely but only partial and limited ones :

- There will be as many particular cases as the number of patients because the face could not be considered as “an organ”. The methodologists could deal about the number of cases that should be gambled to establish general rules. It is exactly the benefit of the international CTA register.
- The tolerance of a composite transplant is now completely safe if the immunosuppressive treatment is well planned and followed.
- The functional result is linked to the precision and the quality of the nervous and muscular restoration and also to the intensity and accuracy of the physiotherapy
- The facial graft is wide opened in a large field of multidisciplinary research network: neurophysiology, dermatopathology, immunology and cell stems, psychology....

But the essential lessons which remains, is that the facial graft should be re-invented for each new indication and that, in the future, its success is essentially linked to its human dimension.