

# Microsurgical head and neck reconstruction is cost-effective

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(HealthDay)—For patients with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC),

microsurgical head and neck reconstruction is cost-effective compared with locoregional flaps, according to a study published online Nov. 29 in *Head & Neck*.

Lin Lin Gao, M.D., from the University of Pennsylvania Health System in Philadelphia, and colleagues examined the cost-effectiveness of free flap reconstruction for head and neck defects after oncologic resection for SCC. A Markov model was developed for the cost, quality of life, survival, and incremental cost-effectiveness of reconstruction with free tissue transfer versus locoregional flaps.

The researchers found that, compared with pedicled flap, free flap reconstruction was more costly, but associated with greater quality of life, with no [survival benefit](#). Using a definition of cost-effectiveness of

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