Calendar 2026

Milestones in Plastic Surgery

Concept & Creation @ Dr. Nikhil Panse

Nasal Reconstruction (600 BCE)

In ancient India, nasal reconstruction, documented in the Sushruta Samhita, was performed using forehead flaps to reconstruct noses mutilated as punishment or in war. This method laid the foundation for plastic surgery and remained influential for centuries, inspiring techniques that evolved into modern reconstructive surgery. Its significance lies in its innovative use of tissue transfer, which remains a core principle in plastic surgery today.

Sushruta, considered the "Father of Surgery“, in “ Sushruta Samhita” not only detailed complex nasal reconstructions , but also emphasized the importance of postoperative care and wound management.

January 2026

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Did you know?

Sushruta advocated for practicing surgical techniques on inanimate objects like fruits and animal hides before operating on patients.

February 2026

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Did you know?

After Tagliacozzi's death, the Church exhumed and reburied his body outside sacred grounds, citing ethical concerns about altering the human body. This highlights the cultural and religious challenges early plastic surgeons faced, which shaped the evolution of reconstructive surgery as a recognized specialty.

Pedicled Flaps (16th Century)

The 16th century marked the re-emergence of tissue transfer with Gaspare Tagliacozzi's development of pedicled flaps, particularly for nasal reconstruction. His work transitioned plastic surgery into a scientific discipline by emphasizing surgical planning and understanding vascular supply. This innovation paved the way for modern reconstructive techniques.

Image Source: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00266-021-02247-x

Gaspare Tagliacozzi, was not only a surgeon but also a professor of anatomy and surgery at the University of Bologna and wrote "De Curtorum Chirurgia," describing his groundbreaking use of pedicled arm flaps for nasal reconstruction.

March 2026

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Musculocutaneous Flaps (1900's)

The concept of musculocutaneous flaps revolutionized soft-tissue reconstruction. This milestone allowed for robust vascularity in tissue transfer, ensuring better survival rates and functional restoration. It remains a cornerstone in reconstructive surgery for head, neck, and extremity defects.

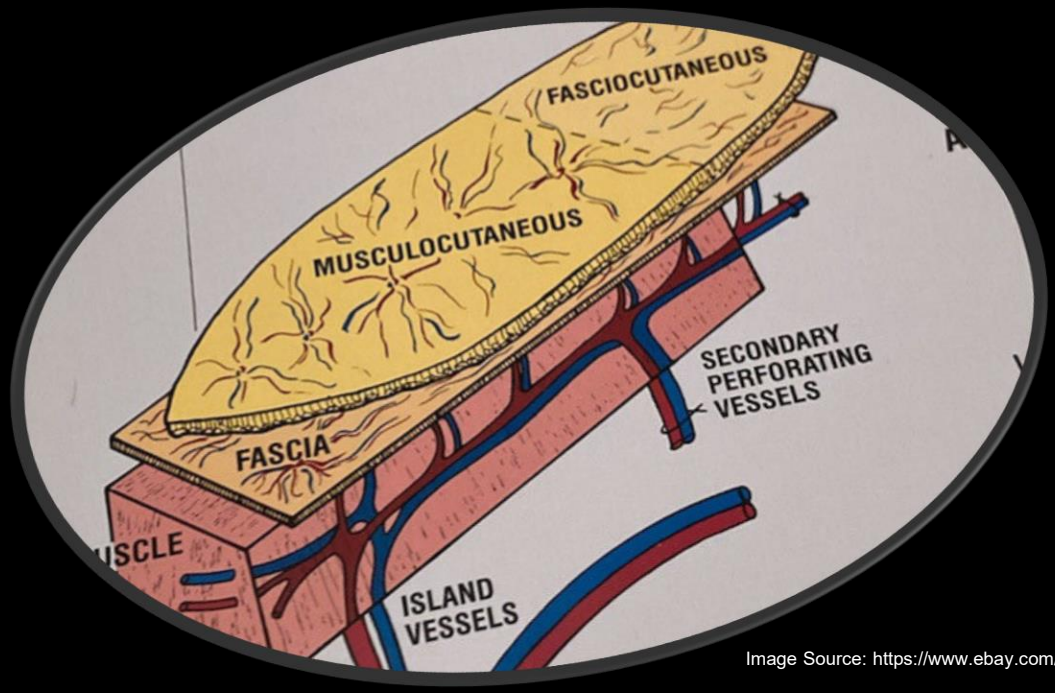

Image Source: https://www.ebay.com/itm/386236281328

Professor Stefano dÉste, is often credited with some of the earliest formal descriptions of musculocutaneous flaps which became essential in reconstructive surgery.

Did you know?

Tanzini's groundbreaking work on the latissimus dorsi flap faced criticism at the time, as some believed using muscle for reconstruction was unnecessarily radical and risky.

Modern Pedicled Flaps (1910's)

Harold Gillies' work during World War I brought modern pedicled flaps into practice, addressing extensive facial injuries. His techniques emphasized tissue preservation and functionality, shaping the future of reconstructive surgery and inspiring advancements in flap design.

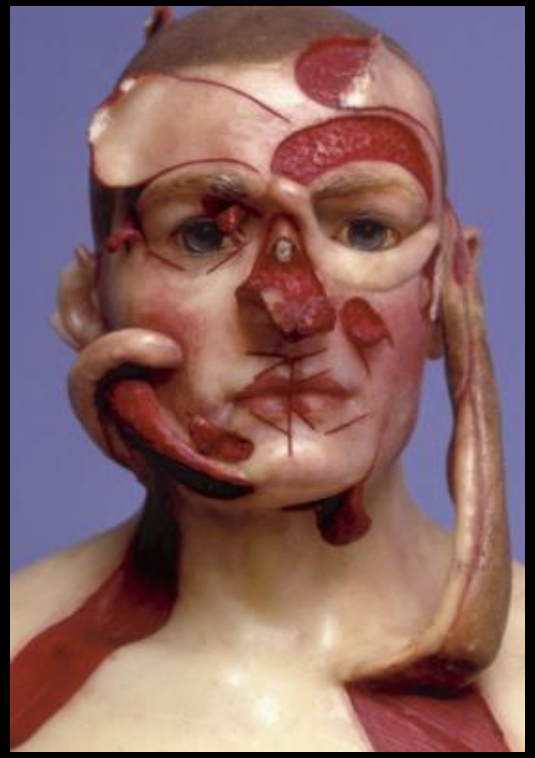

Image Source: History of Plastic Surgery by Paulo Santoni -Rugiu

Sir Harold Gillies, often called the "Father of Modern Plastic Surgery," was an ENT Surgeon. His dedication led to the development of the first specialized plastic surgery unit in the world at Sidcup, England.

April 2026

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Did you know?

Harold Gillies was the first surgeon to document patient photographs in plastic surgery, setting a precedent for medical records.

May 2026

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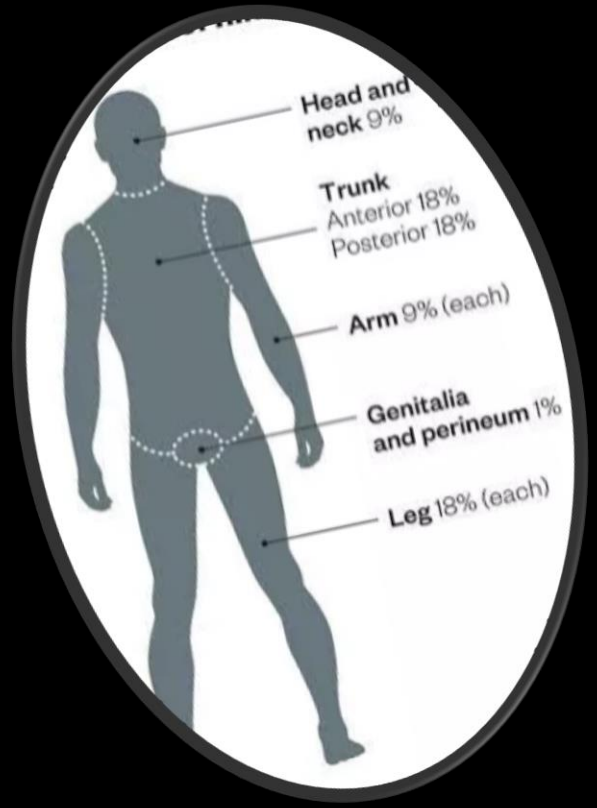
Did you know?

Before the advent of the Rule of Nines, burn assessments relied heavily on vague descriptors like "half the body" or "most of the arm," leading to inconsistent estimates and treatment plans.

Burn Management – Rule of Nines (1950's)

The Rule of Nines described by Alexander Wallace revolutionized burn care by providing a quick, reproducible, and universally understood method, forming the cornerstone of modern burn management.This innovation saved countless lives and remains a critical tool in burn care worldwide.



While the Rule of Nines is simple and effective for adults, it does not apply directly to children because their body proportions differ significantly. This limitation spurred the development of the Lund and Browder chart, which accounts for age-based differences.

June 2026

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Did you know?
Tessier was one of the first to integrate 3D imaging and virtual surgical planning into craniofacial surgery.

Craniofacial Osteotomies (1950's)

Paul Tessier's development of craniofacial osteotomies in the late 1950s transformed the treatment of congenital craniofacial anomalies and severe facial trauma. His innovations allowed for three-dimensional correction of deformities and established craniofacial surgery as a specialized field.

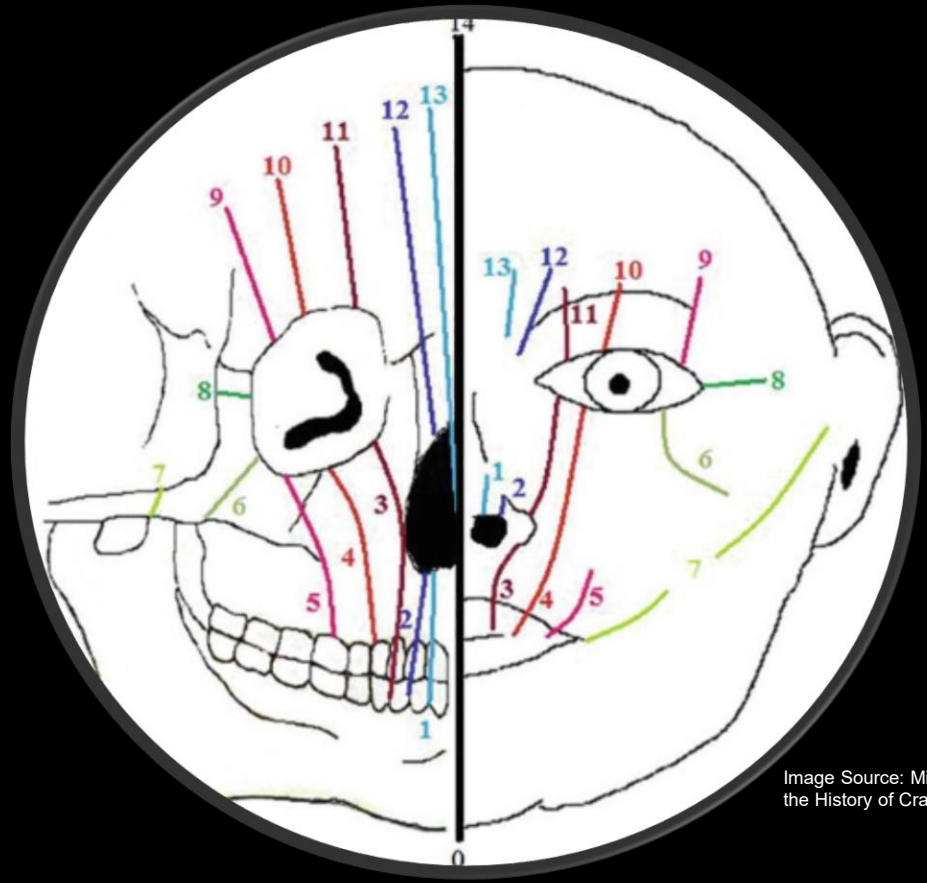

Image Source: Milestones Contributing to the History of Craniofacial Surgery.

Tessier, a French plastic surgeon, is considered the "Father of Craniofacial Surgery" for his pioneering osteotomy techniques.

Microvascular Surgery (1960's)

The advent of microsurgery in the 1960s enabled the transplantation of free tissue with functional outcomes. Pioneering techniques like anastomosing tiny vessels revolutionized reconstructive surgery, particularly for trauma, cancer, and congenital anomalies.

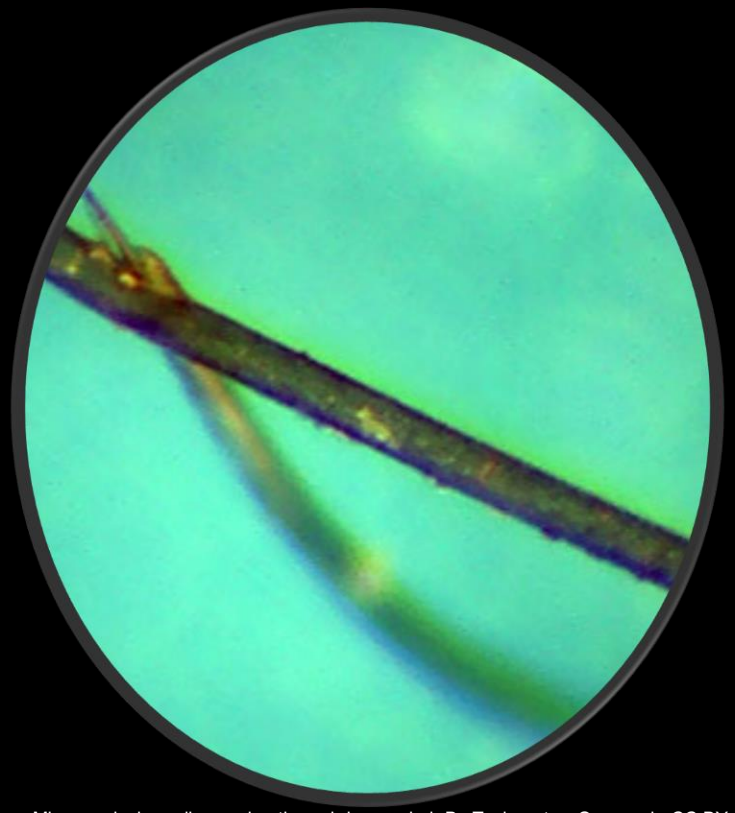

Image Source: Microsurgical needle passing through human hair By Taylornate - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia

Early experiments in microsurgery were conducted by Dr. Alexis Carrel, a French surgeon, who experimented with suturing tiny blood vessels during the early 20th century. His trifurcation technique laid the groundwork for future advancements.

July 2026

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Did you know?

Alexis Carrel, awarded the 1912 Nobel Prize for pioneering vascular suturing techniques, and Joseph Murray, recognized in 1990 for advancing microsurgery, organ transplantation, and immunosuppression, significantly shaped modern plastic surgery.

August 2026

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Did you know?

The initial breast implants were tested on a dog named Esmeralda before being used on human patients.

Silicone Breast Implants (1960's)

The introduction of silicone breast implants by Cronin and Gerow in 1962 transformed aesthetic and reconstructive breast surgery. It offered women reliable options for cosmetic enhancement and post-mastectomy reconstruction, boosting confidence and quality of life.

Image source: https://transtoolshed.com/blogs/news/a-brief-history-of-breast-forms

Cronin and Gerow developed the first silicone breast implant, ushering in a new era in aesthetic surgery. Timmie Jean Lindsey, the first woman to receive silicone breast implants, had her procedure initially intended as tattoo removal and ear surgery consultation.

September 2026

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Did you know?

In the 1920s, French surgeon Charles Dujarier's experimental fat removal on a ballerina led to severe tissue damage, infection, and leg amputation, delaying the advancement of liposuction for decades.

Liposuction (1970's)

Liposuction became a groundbreaking technique for body contouring. It offered a minimally invasive option to reshape the body, significantly influencing aesthetic surgery worldwide.

Image Source: https://in.pinterest.com/pin/590182726206452682/

Yves Gérard Illouz introduced the "Illouz Technique," combining blunt cannulas and suction for safer fat removal.

Perforator Flaps (1980's)

Perforator flaps, popularized in the 1980s, revolutionized reconstructive surgery by sparing muscles and reducing donor site morbidity. They allowed surgeons to tailor flaps for specific defects with minimal functional loss.

Ian Taylor's meticulous mapping of the angiosomes of the body gave surgeons a vascular "GPS," guiding precise flap planning and improving outcomes.

October 2026

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Did you know?
The vascular arrangement underlying perforator flaps mimics the branching patterns of trees, river networks, and even coral reefs, all designed to maximize efficient distribution and drainage.

November 2026

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Did you know?

Zion Harvey, the world's first child to receive a double hand transplant at age 8 in 2015, demonstrated that transplanted hands can grow with age.

Hand Transplantation (1990's)

The first modern hand transplantation in 1998 marked a milestone in composite tissue allotransplantation, restoring both functionality and aesthetics. It showcased the possibilities of organ and tissue transplantation in reconstructive surgery.

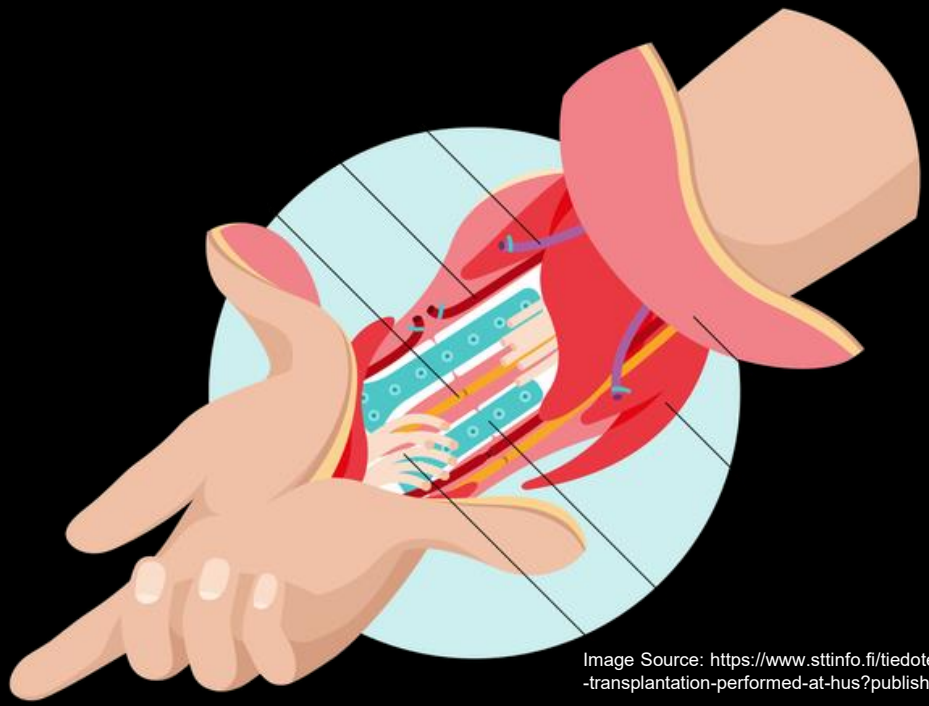

Image Source: https://www.sttinfo.fi/tiedote/70769927/first-in-finland-hand-transplantation-performed-at-hus?publisherId=23980819&lang=en

Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard led the first hand transplant in Lyon, France, pioneering advancements in immunosuppression and CTA.

3D Printing (2000's)

3D printing, popularized in the 2000's has revolutionized plastic surgery by enabling the creation of highly personalized implants, prosthetics, and surgical models. It allows for precise preoperative planning, improving surgical accuracy and reducing operative time and complications.

Image Source: https://www.artec3d.com/learning-center/how-does-a-3d-printer-work

Bioprinting is pushing the boundaries by enabling the creation of living tissue, with the potential for skin grafts and even organ reconstruction.

December 2026

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Did you know?

3D bioprinting combines stem cells, growth factors, and biomaterials to create structures that mimic natural tissue more closely than ever before.