

The Latissimus Dorsi Flap (LDF) : the « swiss tool » for breast reconstruction.

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In my opinion, the LDF is the « swiss tool » for breast reconstruction (BR), because it is simple and safe, reliable, secure and versatile.

Simple and safe, according to its short learning curve, its quickly harvesting, and the very few sequelae.

It's reliable because total flap loss is rare.

It's secure specially in immediate BR (IBR), where it offers a good protection for the implant, in case of skin necrosis.

Finally, it is versatile : one can use it whenever the field is irradiated, for all size or shape of the opposite breast, autologous or with implant.

What is the place of the LDF in my practice ?

Since 2000, I have performed 615 breast reconstructions. The LDF represents 60% of the delayed BR, because I have to deal with the skin sequelae of the mastectomy (high tension, ruggedness, excessive skin thinness).

In IBR, the LDF is my option in 18% of the cases. How do I choose it ?

When I need a skin or muscular coverage.

When the patient choose an autologous reconstruction of a medium size breast.

Finally, more than a technique or an algorithm, it is the surgeon's background which can deal with each special case of IBR.