

# SUPERTHIN AND SUPRAFASCIAL ALT FLAP FOR HEAD AND NECK RECONSTRUCTIONS - PART 1

## VASCULAR ANATOMY & PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSTIC

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## The free thigh flap: a new free flap concept based on the septocutaneous artery

Y. G. SONG, G. Z. CHEN, and Y. L. SONG

*The Plastic Surgery Hospital, Beijing, People's Republic of China*

Summary—Based on the septocutaneous artery flap concept, the thigh, which is the commonest conventional donor site for split-skin grafts, can also become a donor area for skin flaps. The thigh flap, with its large and long neuro-vascular pedicle, can be used either as a free flap or as an island flap as an alternative to the lower abdominal flap, groin flap, tensor fasciae latae myocutaneous flap, sartorius myocutaneous flap or the gracilis myocutaneous flap. The anatomical basis, operative technique and characteristics of the thigh flap are discussed.

# 1993

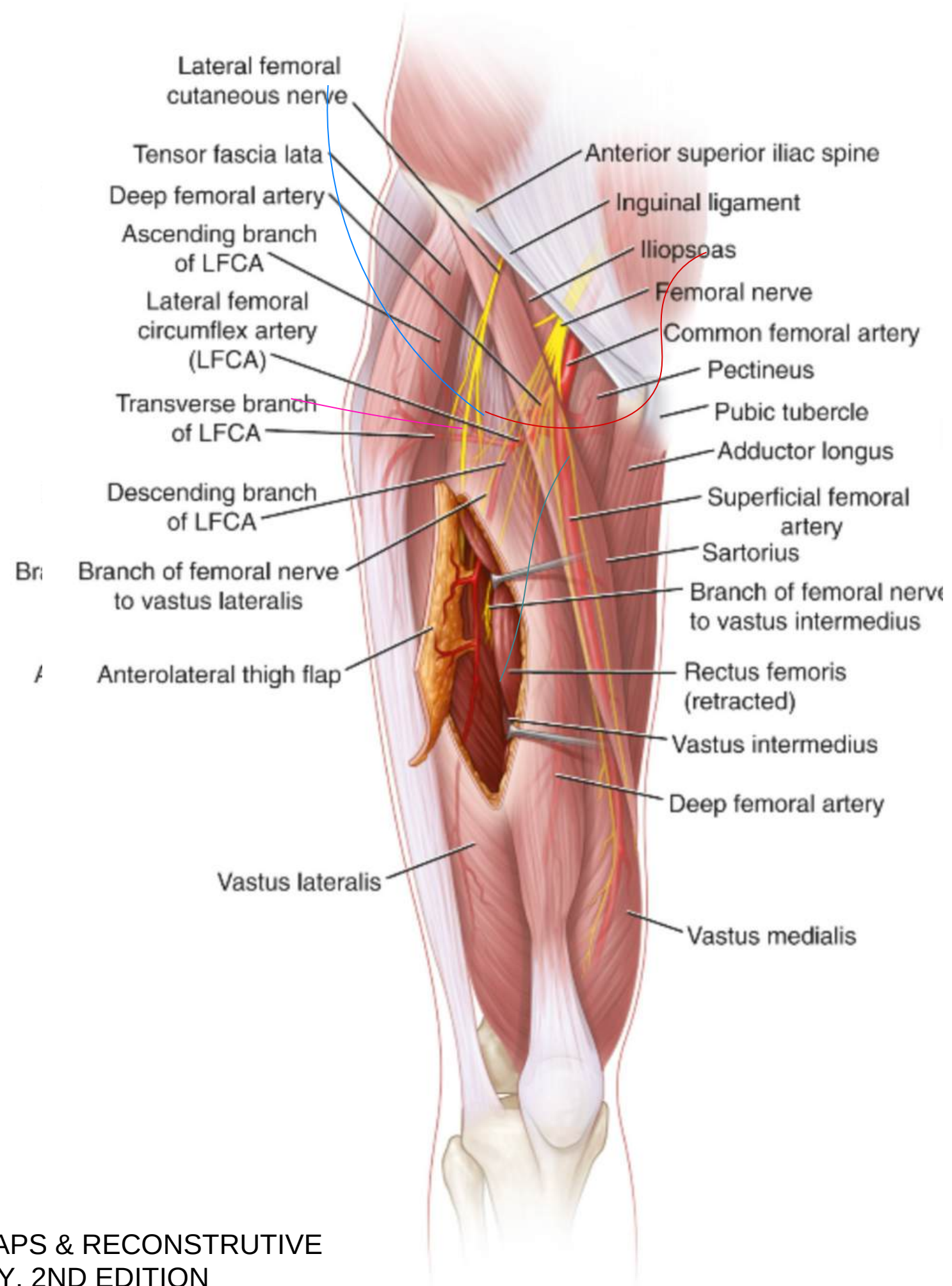
## Free Anterolateral Thigh Flaps for Reconstruction of Head and Neck Defects

**Isao Koshima, M.D., Hiroshi Fukuda, D.D.S., Hidekazu Yamamoto, M.D.,  
Takahiko Moriguchi, M.D., Shugo Soeda, M.D., and Shigeo Ohta, M.D.**

*Okayama, Shizuoka, and Ibaraki, Japan*

- RELIABLE BLOOD SUPPLY
- LONG PEDICLE, LARGE VESSELS
- PLIABLE, SUITABLE TO THINNING
- FLOW-THROUGH FLAP
- TWO-TEAM APPROACH
- SKIN, MUSCLE FASCIA

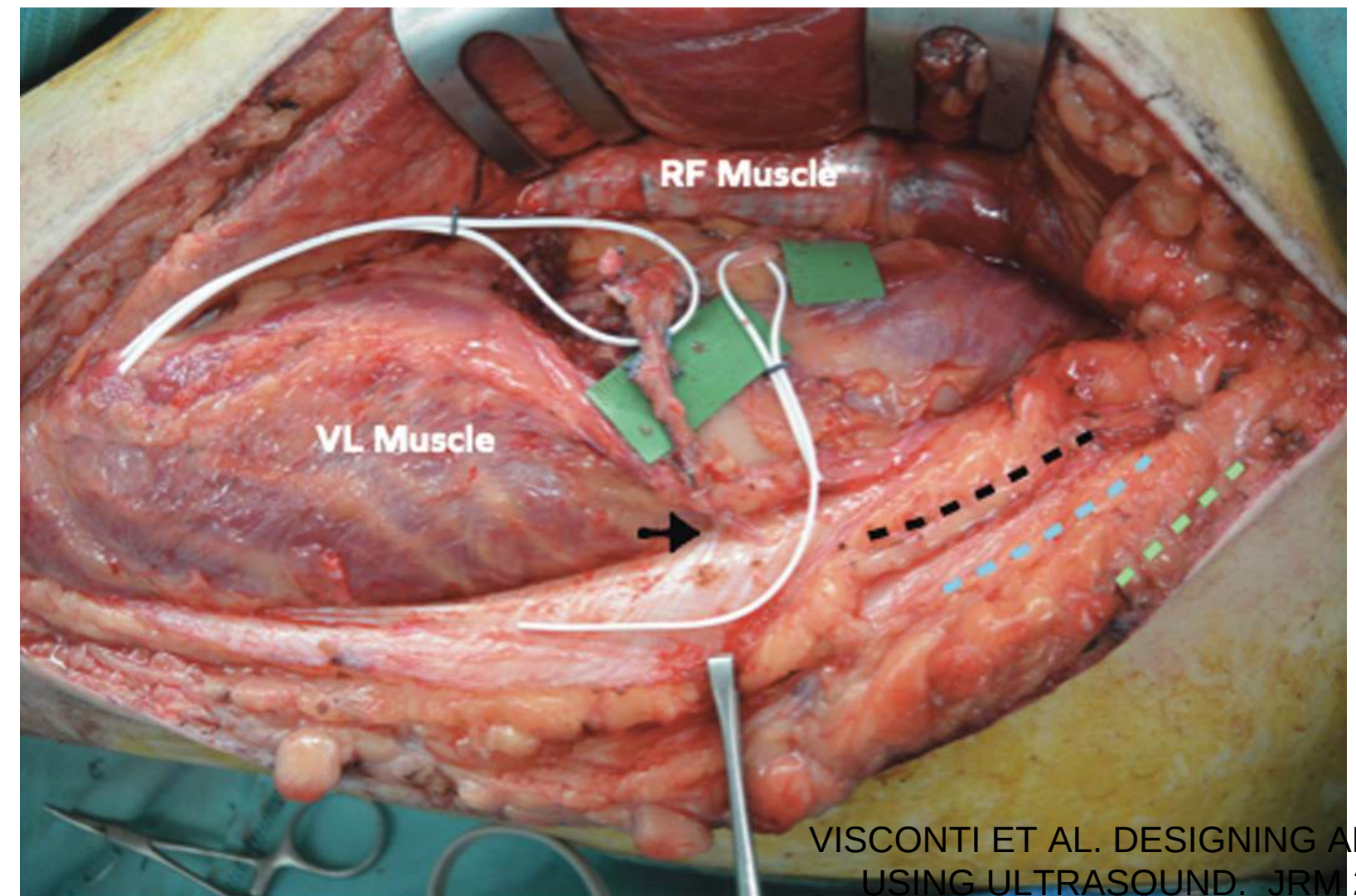




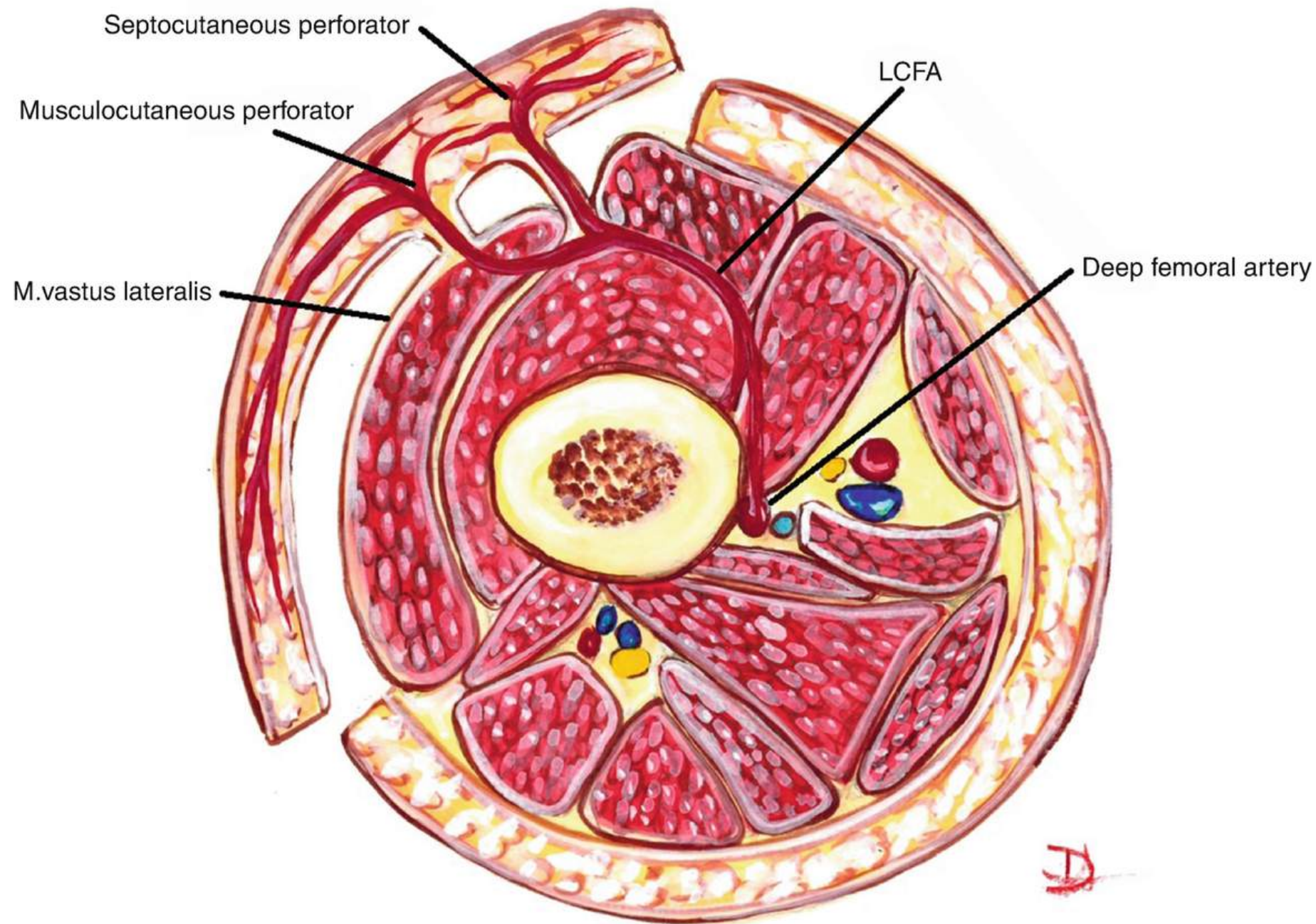
**Lateral circumflex femoral artery**

**Ascending branch**  
**Transverse branch**  
**DESCENDING branch**

**OBLIQUE branch IN 30%**







Lateral **c**ircumflex **f**emoral  
artery

**Ascending**  
branch  
**Transverse**  
branch

**OBLIQUE** branch  
IN 30%

**DESCENDING**  
branch

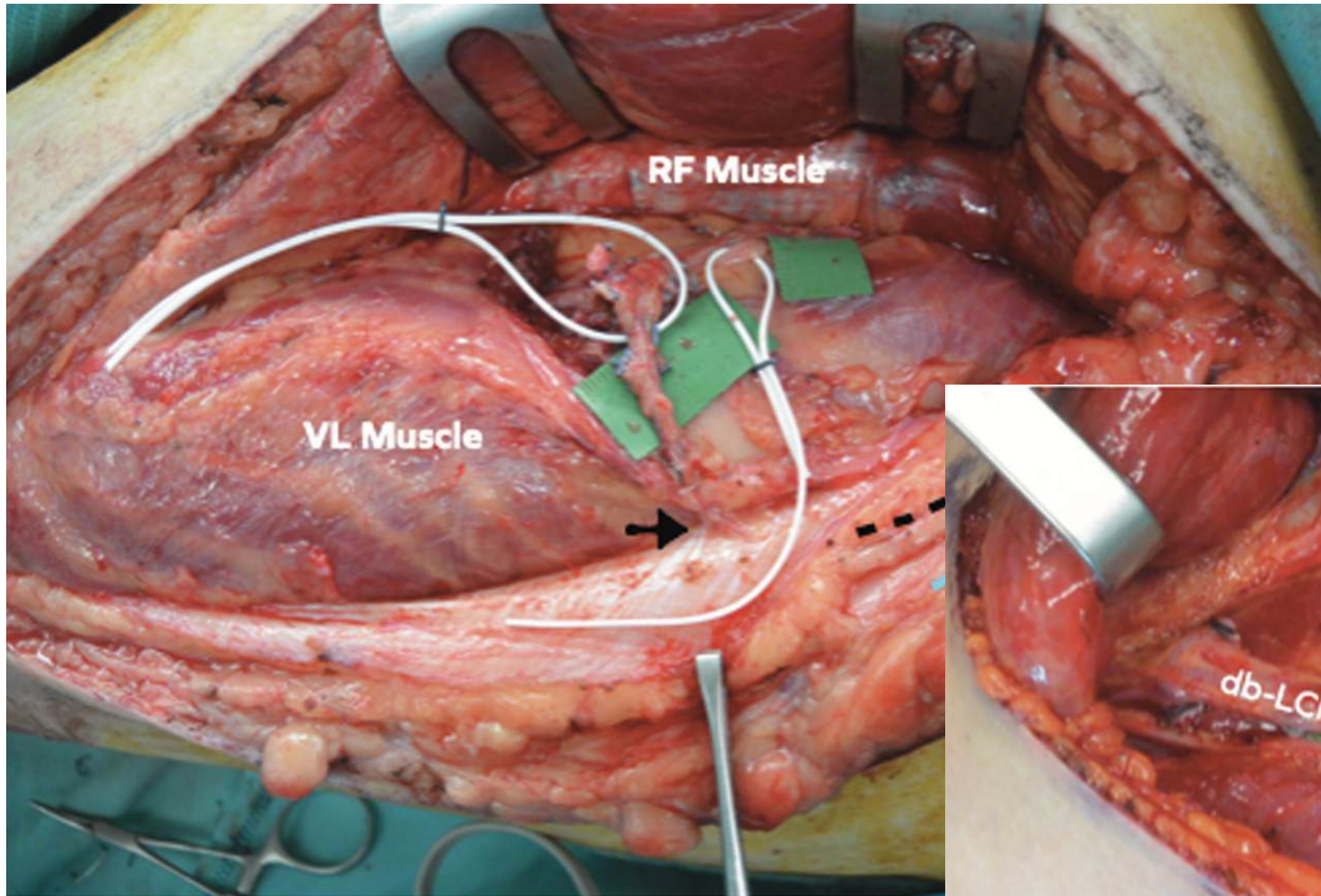
**MEDIAL**  
branch

**30**  
%

**LATERAL**  
branch

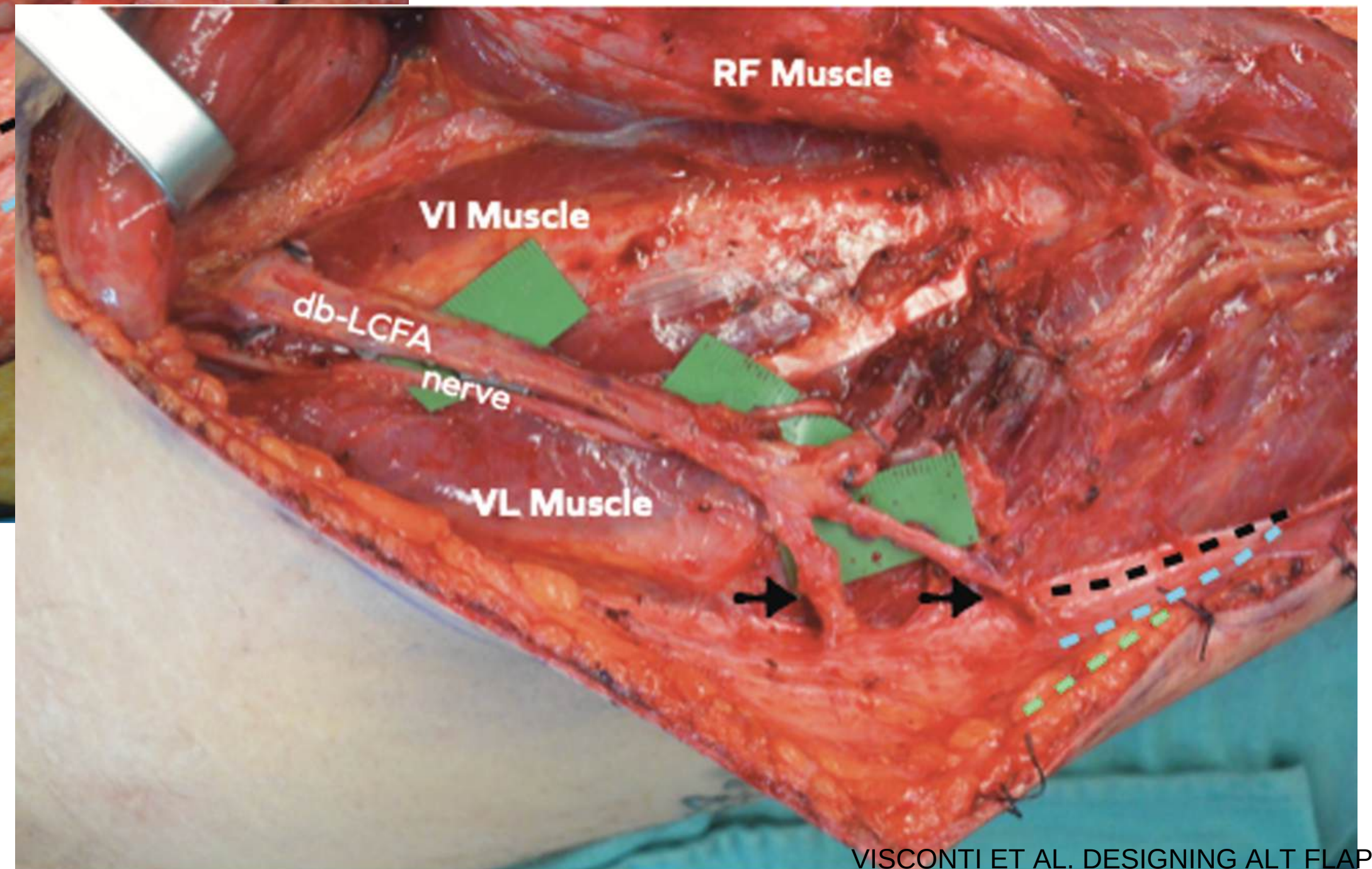
**WATERSHED**  
**AREA**





## SEPTOCUTANEOUS PERFORATORS PROXIMAL & MEDIAL

## MUSCULOCUTANEOUS PERFORATORS Distal & lateral



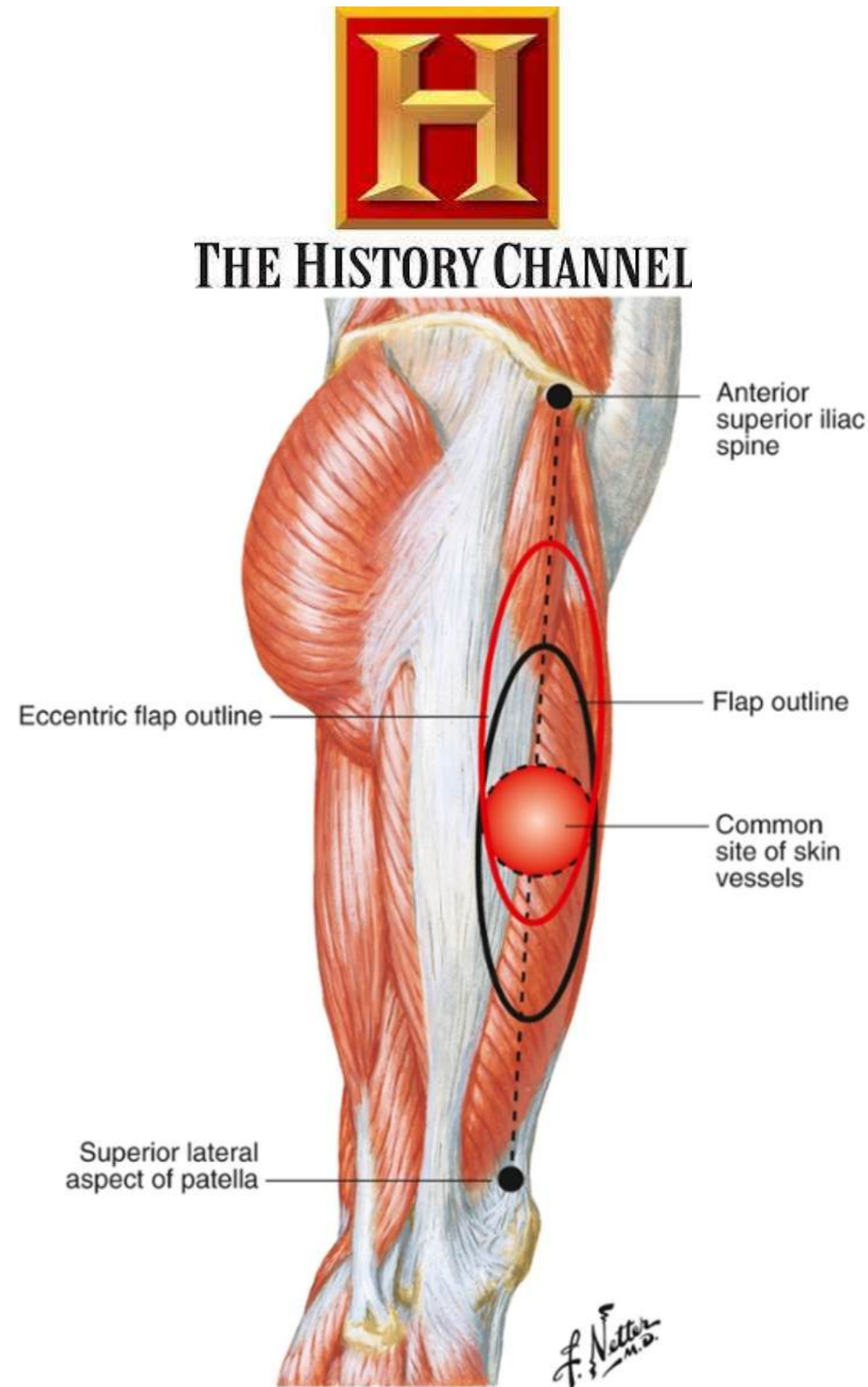


# PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSTIC

# ULTRASOUND

## PORTABLE HANDLED DOPPLER

UNIDIRECTIONAL  
LOW SENSITIVITY AND  
SPECIFICITY  
NO INFO ABOUT CALIBER,  
FLOW, COURSE  
NO INFO ON SOURCE  
VESSEL  
INTRAOPERATIVE



## Designing Anterolateral Thigh Flap Using Ultrasound

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Marzia Salgarello, MD<sup>1</sup>

Q1

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Q2

J Reconstr Microsurg 2021;00:1–11.

Q3

Q4

Q5

### Abstract<sup>Q3</sup>

#### Keywords

- ▶ anterolateral thigh flap
- ▶ thin flap
- ▶ lateral circumflex femoral artery

Preoperative<sup>Q4</sup> knowledge of the microvascular anatomy of a patient may improve safety and efficacy and reduce morbidity.

Today<sup>Q5</sup>, with the advancement in technology, ultrasound can provide minute details of the structures within the body, which makes this technology very helpful in preoperative evaluation of the traditional perforator flaps as well as thin, superthin, and pure skin perforator flaps.

In this article, we will describe the design of one of the most popular perforator flaps, the anterolateral thigh (ALT) flap, using high-frequency and ultrahigh-frequency ultrasound technology.

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Address for correspondence Giuseppe Visconti, MD, <sup>Q2</sup>Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Università Cattolica del "Sacro Cuore," Fondazione Policlinico Universitario "Agostino Gemelli" IRCSS, Via Pietro Adami, 22, 00168 Roma, Italy (e-mail: giuseppe.visconti@policlinicogemelli.it).

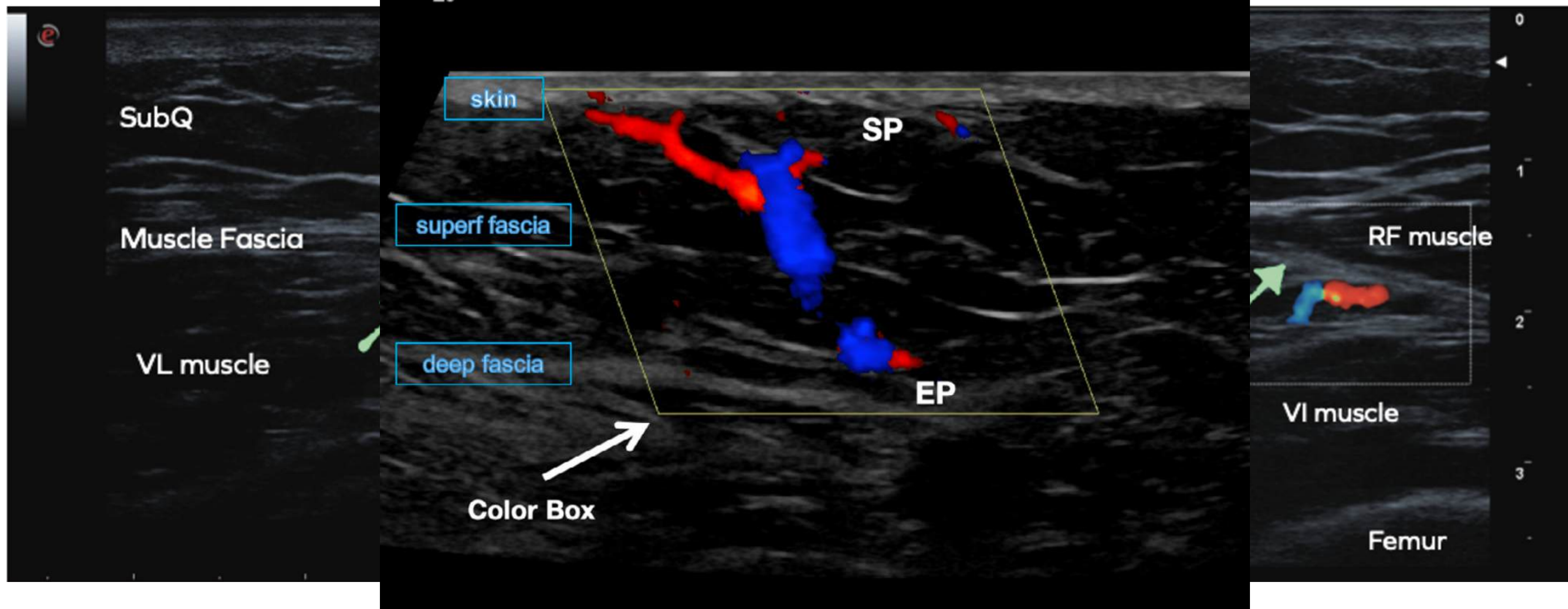
<sup>Q2</sup>

J Reconstr Microsurg 2021;00:1–11.

<sup>Q3</sup>  
<sup>Q4</sup>

## Abstract<sup>Q3</sup>

Preoperative<sup>Q4</sup> safety and efficacy





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<sup>Q2</sup>

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<sup>Q3</sup>

<sup>Q4</sup>

### Abstract<sup>Q3</sup>

Preoperative<sup>Q4</sup> knowledge of the microvascular anatomy of a patient may improve safety and efficacy and reduce morbidity.

## SELECTION OF THE **BEST** PERFORATORS

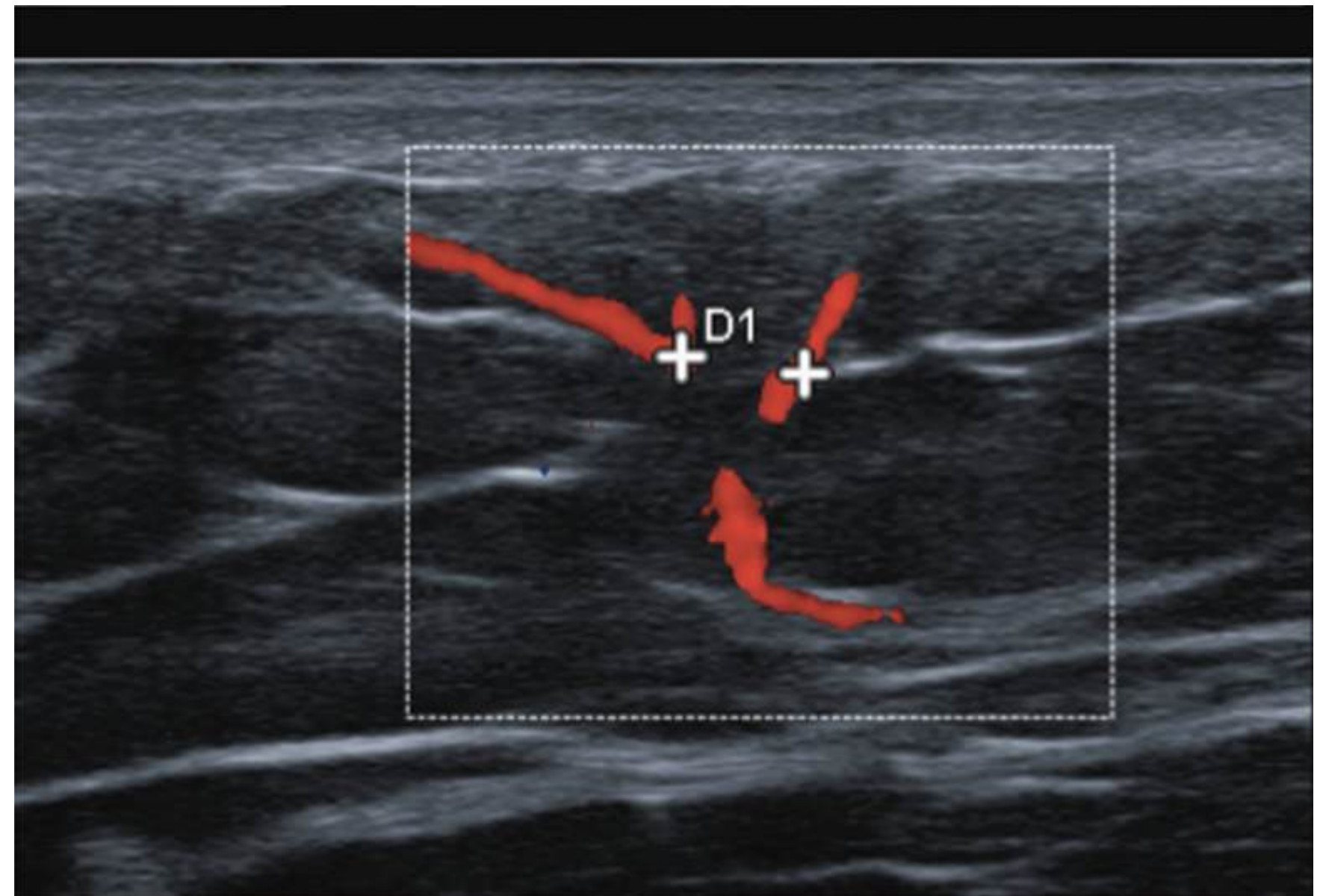
## ACCORDING TO RECONSTRUCTIVE **NEEDS**

## **LIVE** VISUALIZATION OF PERFORATORS

VISUALIZE MICROVESSELS UP TO **0,2MM CALIBER**

PRECISE **SUB AND SUPRAFASCIAL COURSE**

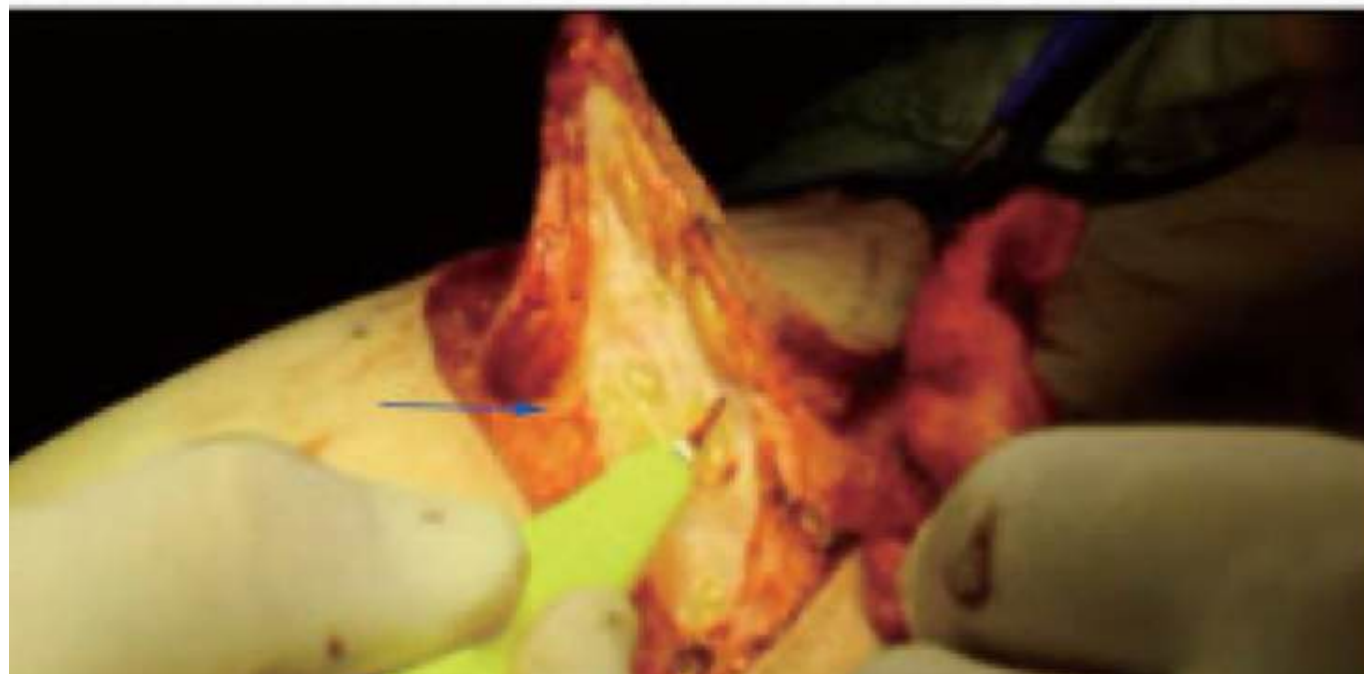
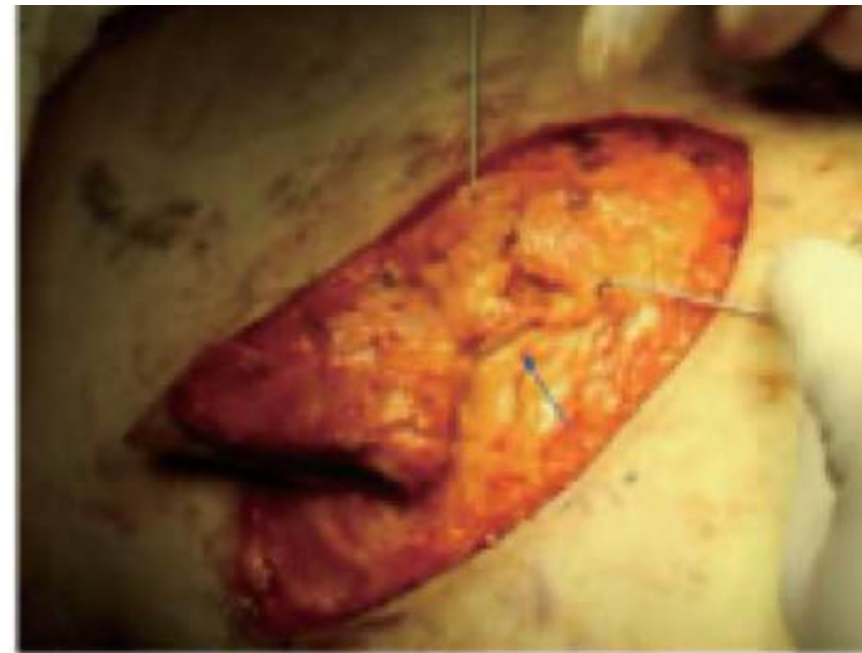
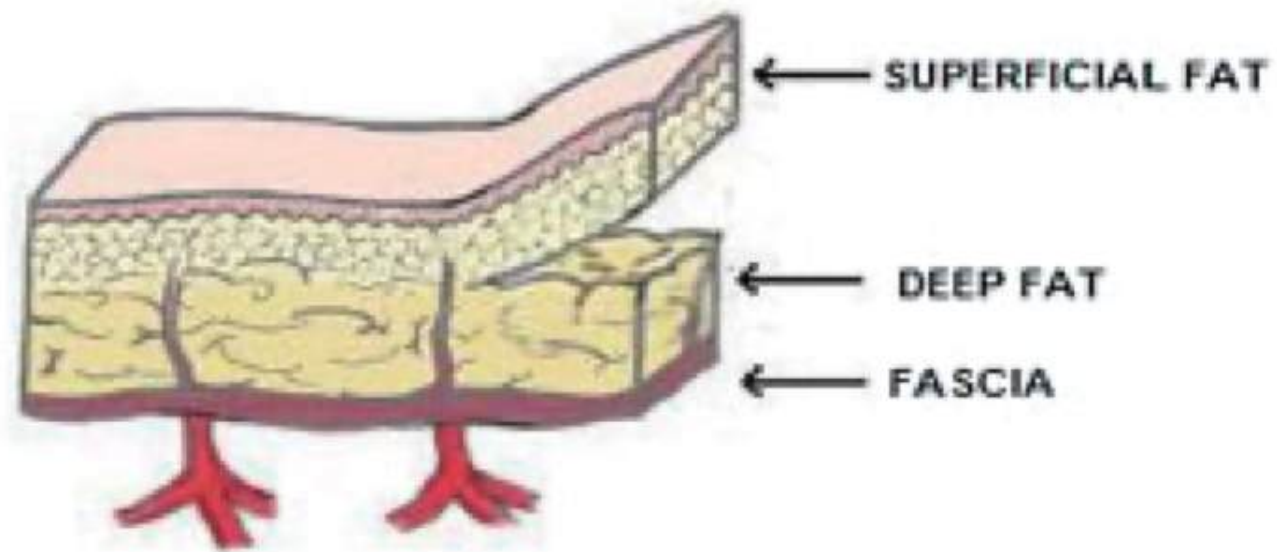
**PATIENTS'** CHARACTERISTICS



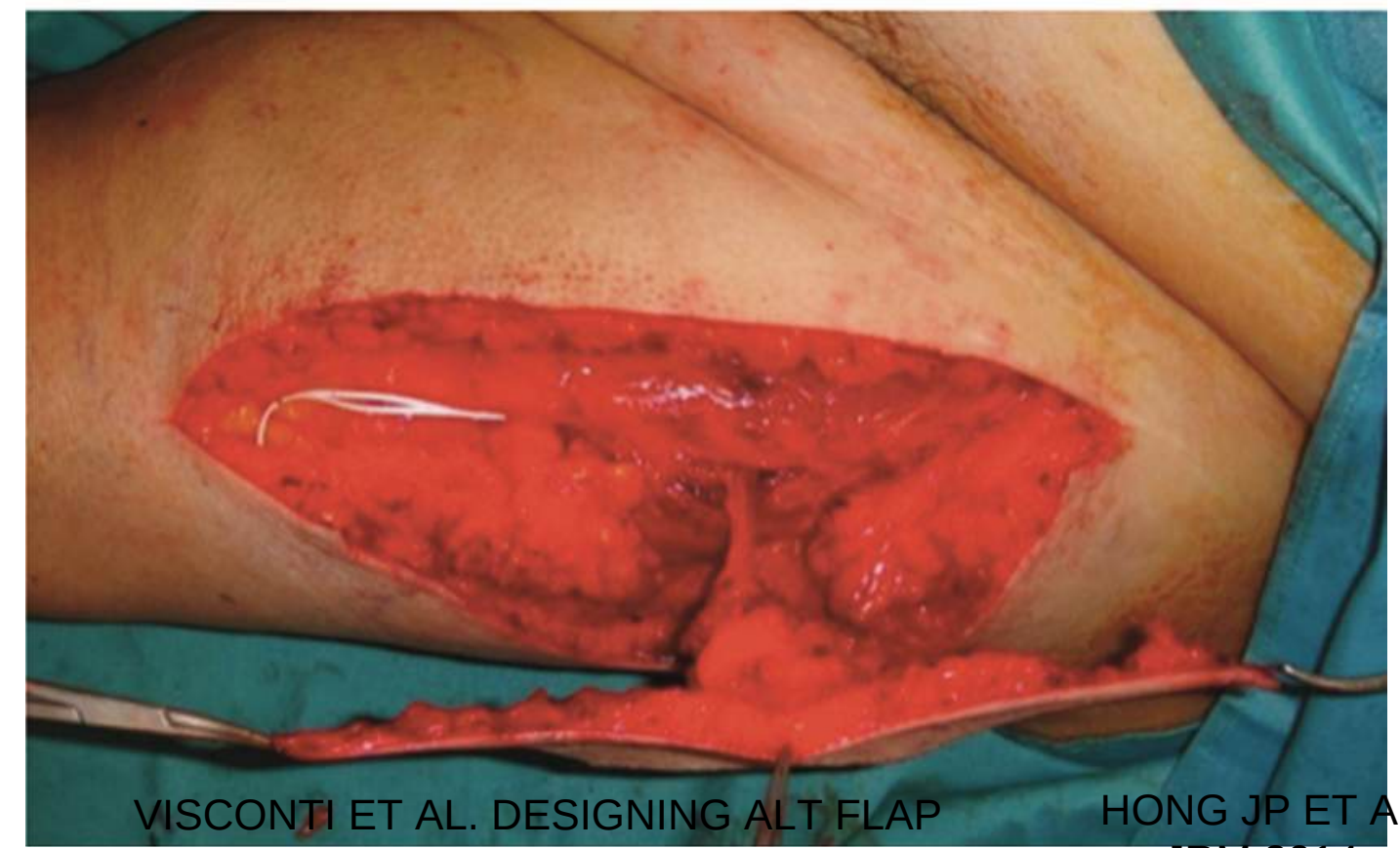


# SUPRAFASCIAL, THIN, SUPERTHIN, PRE SKIN ALT FLAP

## PRIMARY THINNING



## SECONDARY THINNING



VISCONTI ET AL. DESIGNING ALT FLAP  
USING ULTRASOUND. JRM 2021.

HONG JP ET AL.  
JRM 2014.



# SUPRAFASCIAL, THIN, SUPERTHIN, PURE SKIN ALT FLAP



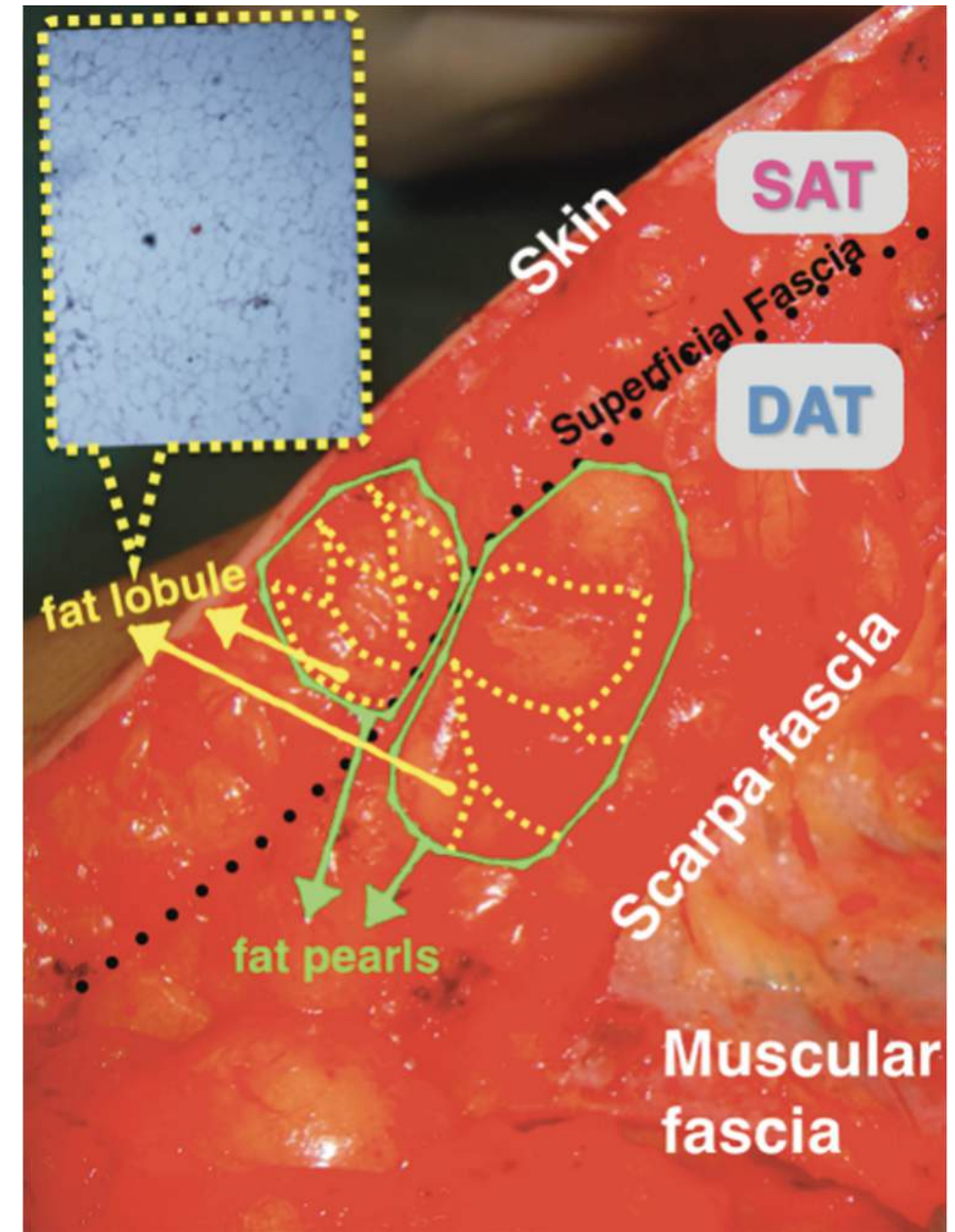
Thin and superthin perforator flap elevation based on preoperative planning with ultrahigh-frequency ultrasound

Giuseppe Visconti<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Bianchi<sup>1</sup>, Akitatsu Hayashi<sup>2</sup>, Alessandro Cina<sup>3</sup>, Giulio Maccauro<sup>4</sup>, Giovanni Almadori<sup>5</sup>, Marzia Salgarello<sup>1</sup>

**THIN FLAPS** ARE ELEVATED  
ALONG THE SCARPA FASCIA

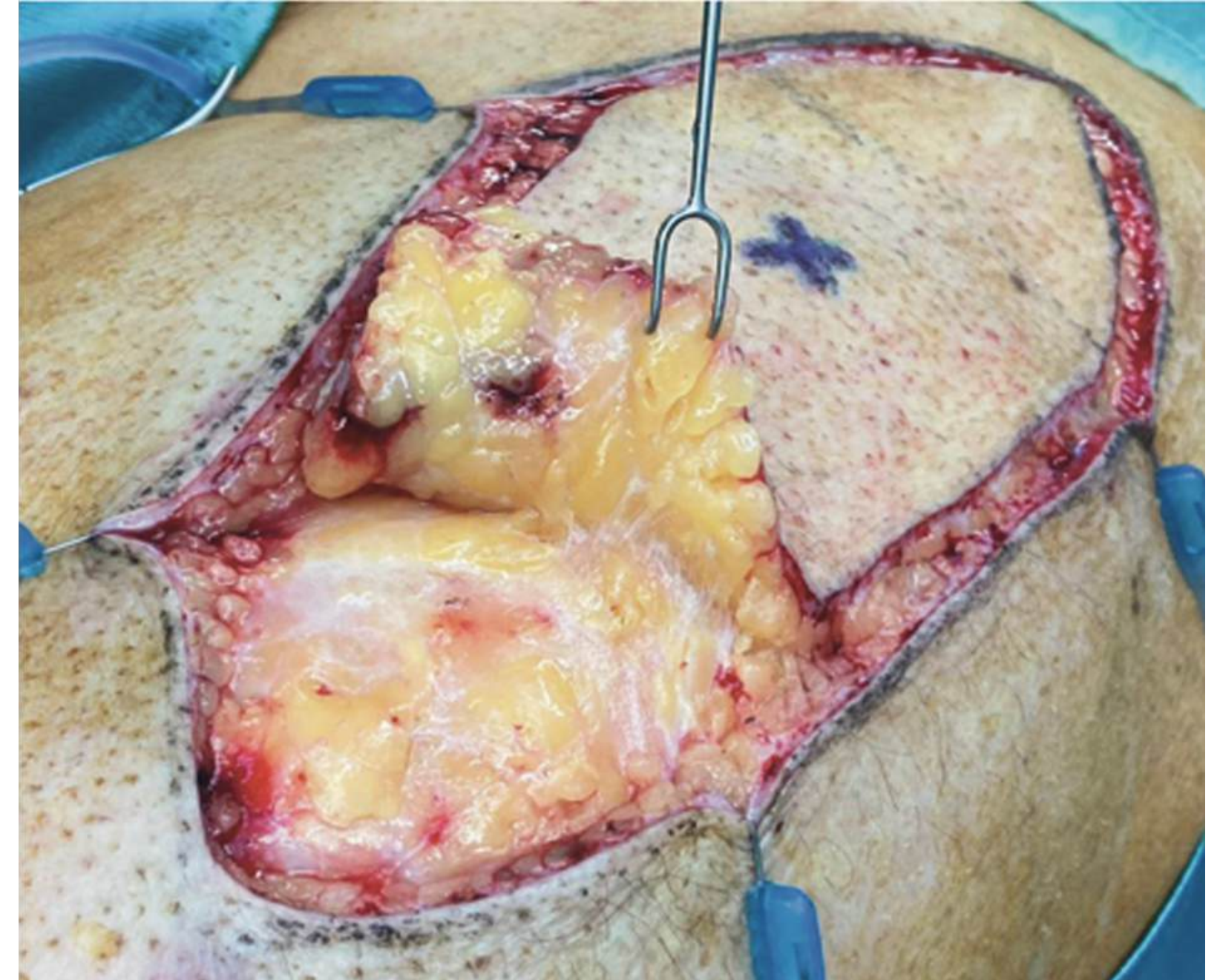
**SUPERTHIN FLAPS** ARE ELEVATED ALONG  
THE SUPERFICIALIS FASCIA

**PSP FLAPS** ARE ELEVATED ALONG  
THE SUBDERMAL PLANE

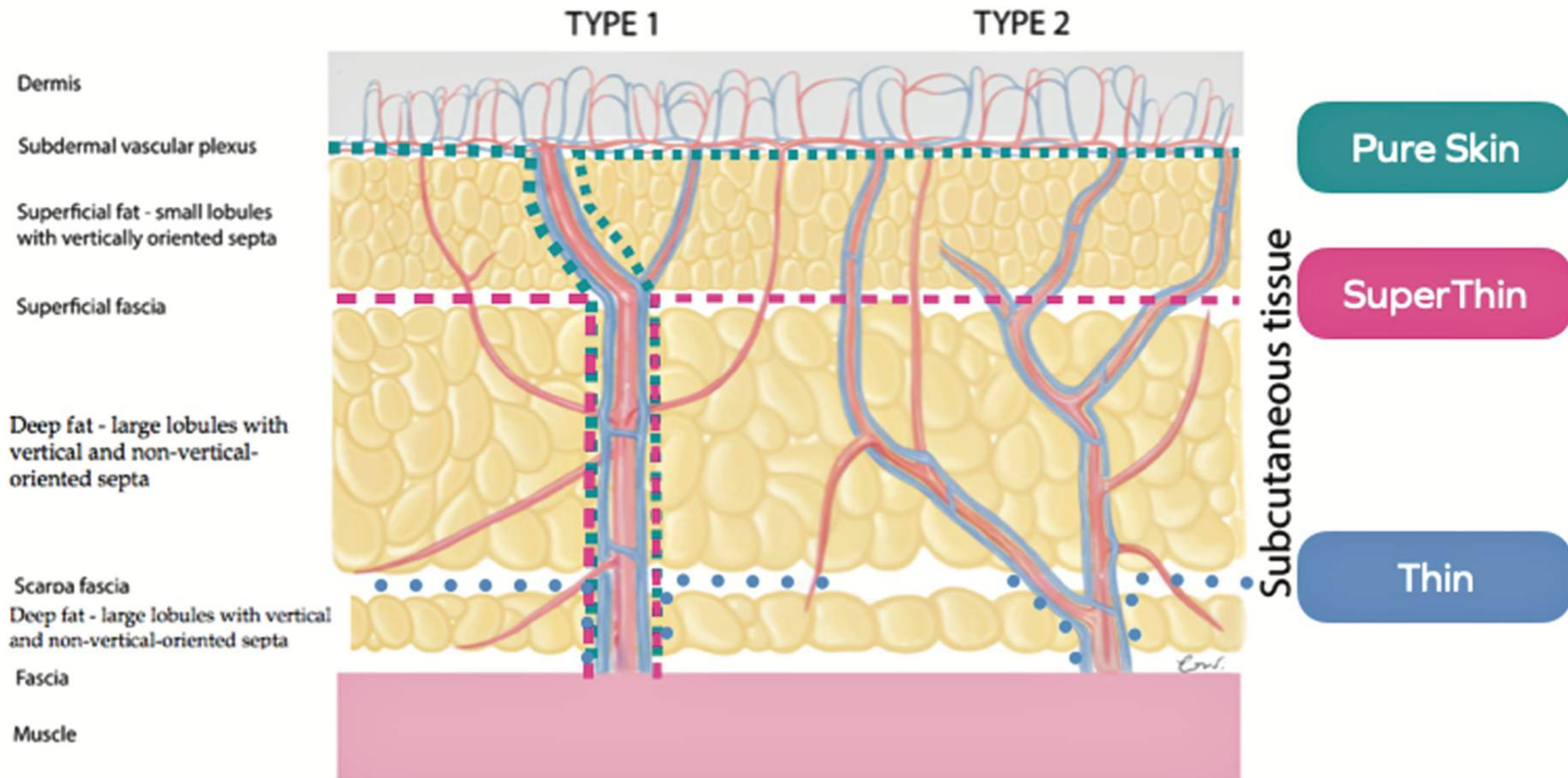




# SUPERTHIN ALT FLAP

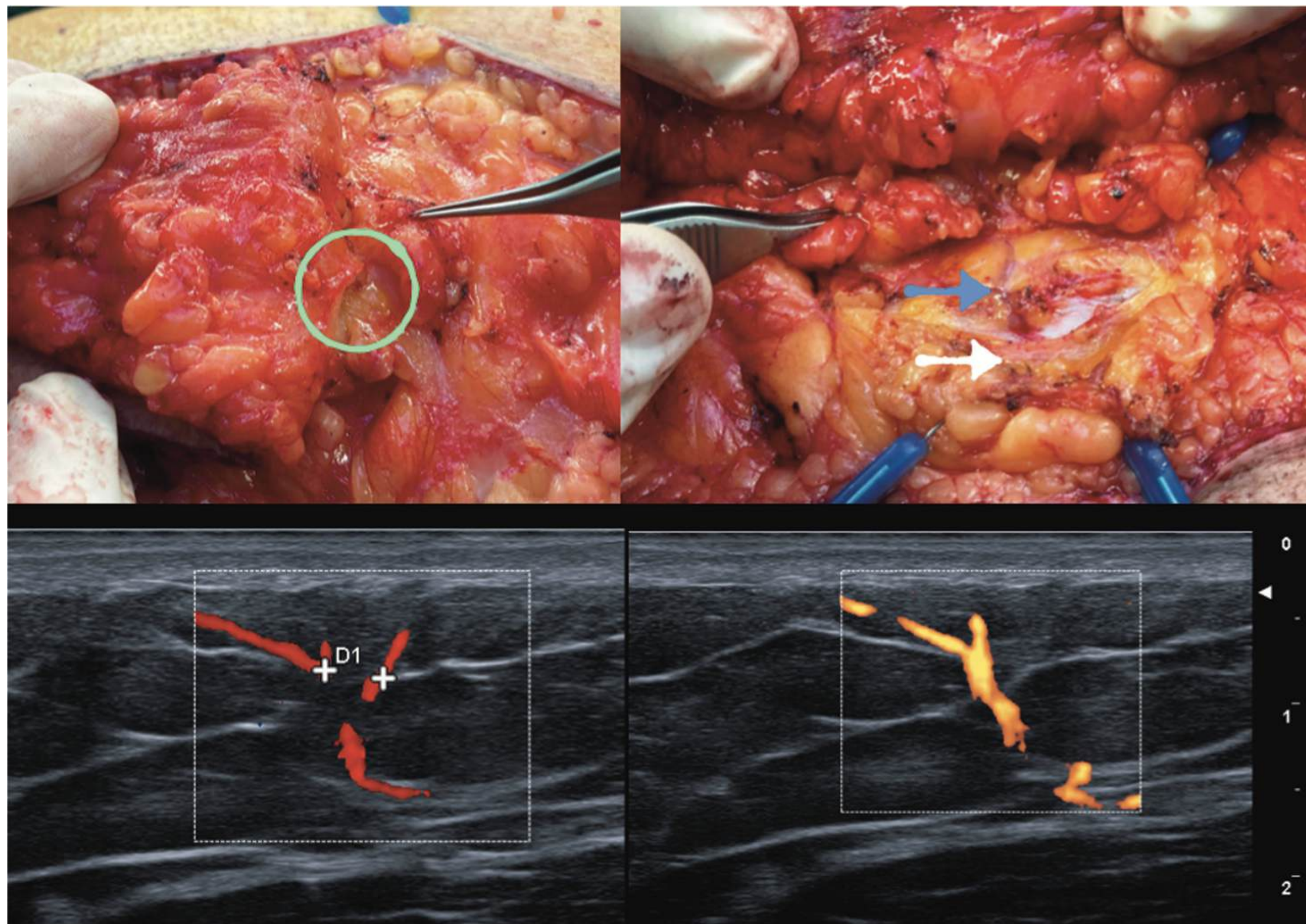






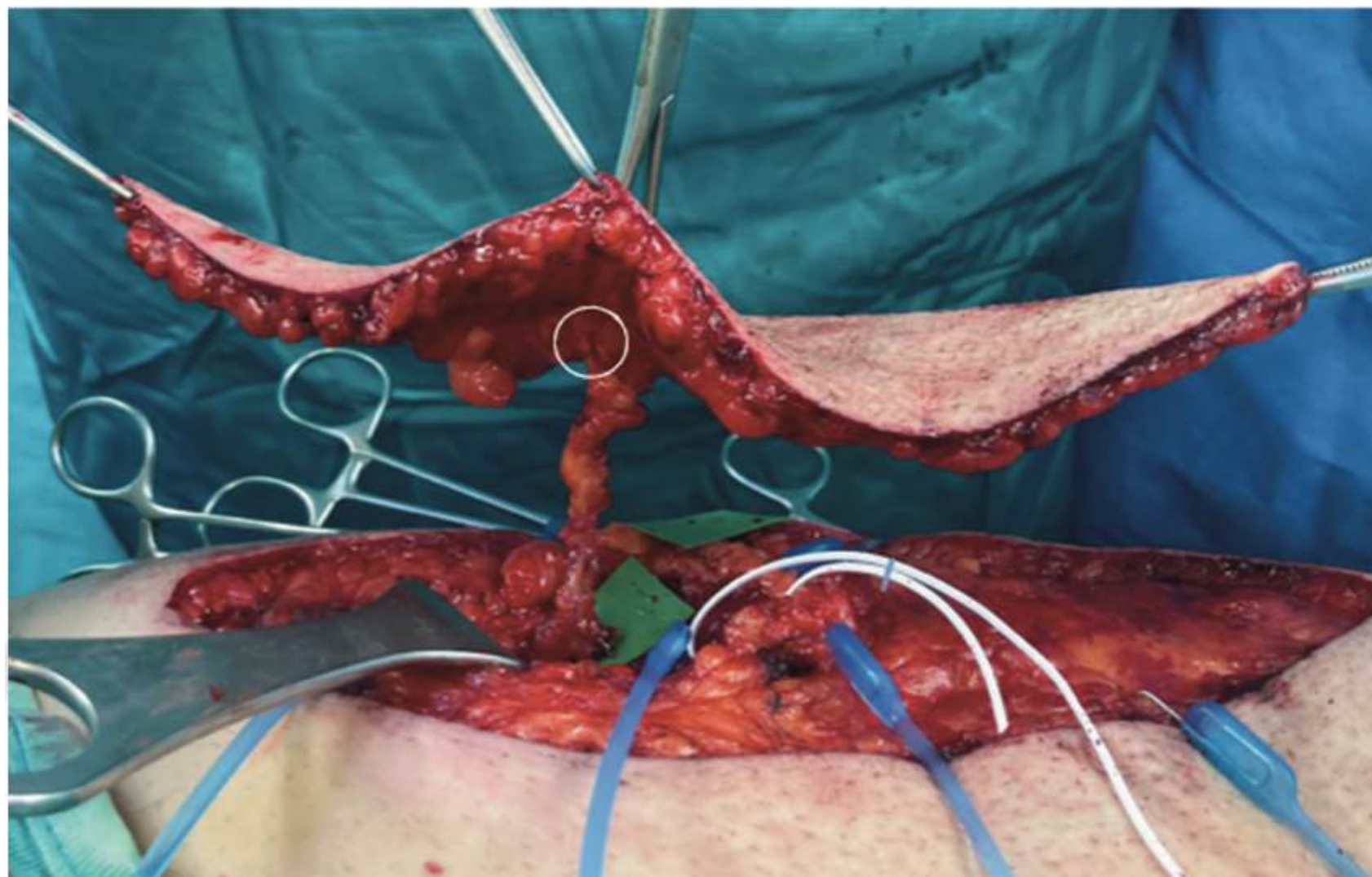
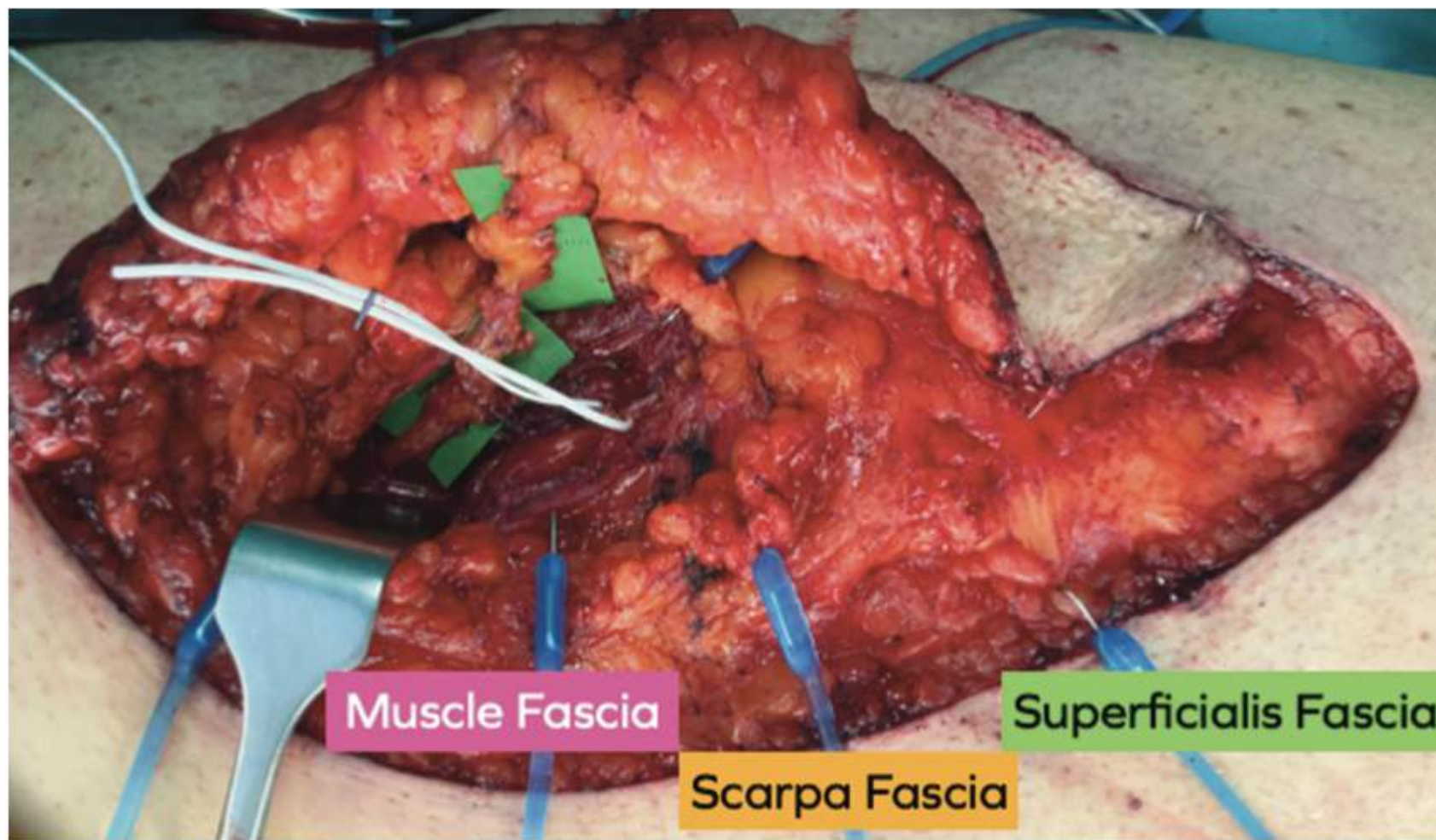


# SUPERTHIN ALT FLAP



VISCONTI ET AL.  
DESIGNING ALT FLAP  
USING ULTRASOUND.  
JRM 2021.





## ULTRASOUND BASED THIN , SUPERTHING & PSP HARVEST

SAFER AND FASTER FOR  
PSP AND SUPERTHIN  
HELPS TO CHOOSE THE  
BEST PERFORATOR  
(OR THE BEST DONOR SITE)  
REDUCE TIME FOR  
HARVESTING  
NO EXPLORATORY  
INCISIONS