



# **PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS**

E4

## THE USE OF GALEAL FLAPS IN OPEN TRAUMA OF THE ANTERIOR BASICRANIUM

*R. Cenzi & L. Guarda*

Dept. of Maxillo-Facial Surgery, Rovigo City Hospital, Via Tre Martiri, Rovigo, ITALY

The authors intend to demonstrate the efficiency of pedunculated galeal flaps in reconstructing open trauma of the anterior basicranium where, not only has the cribriform plate and/or orbital roof been fractured, but the dura mater has been exposed with the consequent laceration and liquid loss.

In serious cranio-facial trauma with an open fracture of the anterior basicranium, this surgical unit has set up the following protocol.

1. Subjecting the patient to the earliest possible surgical intervention (preferably at the time of being admitted to the hospital), having first made an accurate multidisciplinary evaluation, including X-rays.
2. The reconstruction of the cranio-facial skeleton by means of the recomposition of the bone fragments and using autologous grafts (usually the calvarium) when there is a loss of bone substance.
3. Protection and/or repair of the dura mater whenever this has been exposed and/or lacerated by rotating a galeal flap to cover and protect the dura mater itself.

Over a period of 4 years, 5 patients were treated with the above mentioned method. Using the galeal flap meant that both immediate and longer term complications (meningitis, liquid fistulae etc), were avoided while at the same time allowing for immediate and complete reconstruction.

Some cases are presented which illustrate the surgical techniques as well as the results obtained.