Preface

Our goal in this second edition of *Principles of Facial Reconstruction* is to present a guide to reliable, effective techniques of facial reconstruction. We have emphasized key surgical principles in a clear, graphically consistent manner. Rather than present a menu of many possible techniques for each problem, we have selected the one or two that have proven most effective and reliable in our hands. The defect sizes deemed appropriate for each flap are only meant as guidelines for less experienced surgeons. Obviously, this approach leads to some necessary oversimplifications, and many patients will not fit exactly into the confines of our flow diagrams. The clinical experience of the senior surgeon, as always, is required to develop a surgical plan for an individual patient. Because our readers are already accomplished surgeons, we have concentrated our efforts on which approach to select for a given facial defect and on sharing specific technical points we have found useful.

It will be noted that we have emphasized the facial aesthetic units and subunits throughout. This organizing principle is conceptually important, although its significance is greater in some units (the nose) than in others (the cheek). Certain conventions have been followed for consistency. Examples of these conventions are seen on the opposite page preface figure.

There are a number of excellent, comprehensive books available on flap repair. We have not attempted to duplicate those. We have elected to concentrate on soft tissue defects of moderate size and have therefore excluded discussions of larger flap reconstructions, including free flaps, repair of structures, such as the facial nerve, and hard tissue repair.

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