Unilateral Sensation Loss of the NAC After Superomedial Pedicle Reduction Mammaplasty

Elif Sari*

DEAR EDITOR

Superomedial pedicle reduction mammaplasty has become the most preferred technique in our clinic. While performing the technique, the surgeon can predict the final breast volume and shape, as well as limit sensation loss of the nipple-areola complex (NAC). Another advantage of this procedure is the improved long-term projection of the breast. Moreover, the technique obtains younger-looking breasts with elevated inframammary folds.

A total of 40 patients were operated by using superomedial pedicle reduction mammaplasty technique last year in our clinic. However, sensation loss of the NAC has not been reported except one patient. The aim of this letter is to report a unilateral sensation loss of the NAC of a patient who underwent reduction mammaplasty by using superomedial pedicle technique.

A 33-year-old female patient without any systemic disease was admitted to our clinic with macromasty (Figure 1a). Her body mass index was 27 kg/m². The distance between the sternal notch-to-nipple was 30 cm in right breast, and 31 cm in left one before the surgery. The classical superomedial pedicle reduction mammaplasty was performed. A total of 310 g soft tissue was removed in right breast, and 315 g in left one. The NAC transposition was 10 cm in right breast and 11 cm in left breast. No complication was occurred during or after the surgery such as hematoma, infection, seroma, wound healing problem or NAC necrosis.

The patient was followed-up for 12 months. In the first month visit, she suffered from sensation difference between two NAC of the breasts. Complete sensation loss of the right NAC was detected in Semmes-Weinstein monoflaments test. The sensation loss was not resolved during the other visits in 3rd, 6th and 12th months (Figure 1b). This complication could not based on any reason such as nerve injury or traction of the soft tissues. Because, it was reported that the NAC is only innervated by the third, fourth, or fifth intercostal nerves.

Reduction mammaplasty is an effective surgical procedure to improve the quality of life, especially in severe gigantomasty patients. However, loss of sensation of the NAC is a major challenge for plastic surgeons. Heine et al. treated 25 gigantomasty patients by using Lejour technique, and reported a reduced NAC sensation in 8 patients (32%). However, Nahabedian et al. reported a 98% retained NAC sensation after medial-pedicle

* Corresponding Authors:
Elif Sari, MD, Kirikkale University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, Ankara, Kirikkale Road, 7th km Yahsihan, 71450 Kirikkale, Turkey
Tel: +90-506-3813703
Fax: +90-580-2252819
E-mail: drelifsanli@hotmail.com
Received: Dec. 20, 2014
Revised: Feb. 11, 2015
Accepted: March 20, 2015
Unilateral sensation loss of NAC

Fig. 1: Picture of a 33-year-old female patient who underwent superomedial pedicle reduction mammoplasty. (a) Preoperative frontal view of the right breast, and (b) postoperative 6th month frontal view of the right breast were demonstrated in these figures.

REFERENCES


CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

KEYWORDS
Nipple-areola complex; Sensation; Reduction mammoplasty

Please cite this paper as: