

Supplement Digital Content 1. Rationale to separate unilateral and bilateral DIEP breast reconstructions in publications

	Unilateral DIEP Procedure	Bilateral DIEP Procedure
<b>Patient characteristics</b>		
Age	Older	Younger
Patients expectations	Lower	Higher
Patient selection	Important	Critical
Serious comorbidities	Negotiable	Critical
Abdominal scars	Relative limitation	Greater limitation
BRCA carriers/other high risks	Rare	Often
Advanced breast cancer	More often	Rare
Radiation	Often	Not often or unilateral
Body-mass index	Lower	Higher
<b>Reconstruction characteristics</b>		
Concurrent mastectomy	+ or -	+ or ++
Flap design	Zones I II III IV	Zones I-II x 2
Abdomen side and perforator choice	Yes	Limited
Intraoperative pedicle problems	Contralateral flap option	Failure
Length of surgery	Shorter	Longer
Operating surgeon	Single/ Less experienced	Team/ More experienced
<b>Postoperative course</b>		
Patient mobilization	Early	Later
Risk of medical complications	Lower	Higher
Risk of surgical complications	Lower	Higher
Esthetic refinements, other reoperations	Occur	More frequent
Length of hospital stay	Shorter	Longer