A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO OPTIMIZE THE APPROACH TO THE NASAL TIP

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Abstract

Background – The author presents an algorithm to approach the nasal tip. He believes that the semi-open technique, which delivers the cartilage, should be elected in the majority of the primary rhinoplasty and that the open technique should be reserved for secondary cases or noses, that presents unusual deformity. He thoroughly describes the technique and also suggests a nasal tip classification based on the strength of the alar cartilage aiming to make the pre-operative planning to correct the tip deformities easier.

Methods: Based on an experience of 1,050 rhinoplasties performed over the last 6 years and aware that the treatment to achieve a good result in a rhinoplasty, the definition of nasal tip with elegant projection requires good cartilage support, a classification and an organized approach to tip plasty have been elaborated. The approach includes: 1. Accurate pre-operative anatomic diagnosis; 2. Choice of proper technique: either for primary nose or for secondary nose; 3. Use of the cartilage suture technique and cartilage graft, whenever necessary.1,2,3

Results: 1050 patients have been operated over last six years using this algorithm. The aesthetic results were good and with minimal complications.

Conclusions: The use of this method has provided considerable satisfactory and predictable results providing a natural appearing tip with elegant projection. I believe that the semi-open technique can be employed satisfactorily in primary noses to approach the nasal tip. The open technique should only be reserved for special primary cases or secondary rhinoplasty.

References
