



## Extended Dorsal Preservation in a New Concept of Preservational Rhinoplasty

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### Abstract

**Background:** A dorsal preservation rhinoplasty concept was discussed and the benefits vs. contraindications and limitations were presented. In specific cases of severe nasal septal deformations associated with necessity of major septoplasty, focused on perpendicular plate, a New Concept of Extended Dorsal Preservation Rhinoplasty is presented (New Extended PR-D). PR-D is based on septoplasty, rhinosculpture and partial osteotomies.

**Goals:** The objective of this paper is to present a new approach in some cases of rhinoplasty named as extended dorsal preservation rhinoplasty.

**Methods and Results:** Partial and incomplete osteotomies were introduced as method to avoid disinsertion of nasal pyramid of glabellar area and to avoid bony step in areas off osteotomy cut. Rhinosculpture in its extended mode was promoted for modulation of bony structure with obtaining immediate aesthetic and structural results, minor a surgical trauma.

**Conclusion:** The principles of Preservation Concept were respected in this New Extended PR-D Concept.

**Keywords:** Preservation Rhinoplasty; Partial Osteotomies; Rhinosculpture; Dorsal preservation rhinoplasty

### Introduction

Rhinoplasty is more than a surgery, it is not just a change of the shape of a nose, can be consider as a philosophy, a duty and a responsibility. Duty and responsibility to the patient, which aims to transform and shape.

Aesthetics is disputable. Aesthetic patterns are variable depending of the cultural, social and economic status. It is essential to listen, to understand what a specific person wants and try to approximate the final surgical result to their desires according to our individual surgical skills.

It is not just and only a change of features of a nose, but above all, it interferes with patient's body image and self-esteem. Their life takes a turn over, sometimes accepted with delight and gratitude and sometimes more or less badly faced.

Surgical cutting should not be just the main factor, it is again and above the all the responsibility of this procedure and medical approach. It is desirable to preserve as much as surgeon can, structures and function, preserving and protecting patient's individuality and respecting his personality.

The uttermost important responsibility for the surgeon, as one more duty and another obligation, is professionalism. The professionalism includes the intellectual capability, the skillfulness and the knowledge.

The process of acquiring knowledge is never ending line, is a sinusoidal curve, with ups and downs, quoting Finocchi [1]. It has to be faced with a humble attitude and seriousness, understanding that every "bottom" of the curve is actually a possibility to grow, to learn and to get closer to perfection, instead a personal defeat.

The beauty must be the simplicity. It is important to admit differences in concept and definition of beauty, but on the end of the line the patterns stay simple, even though adapted to anthropological concepts. The beauty is a respect, for structures and function.

As well as the beauty, the process of restoring and/or achieving it has to be kept simple. The transformation has to be done with minimal possible changes, reaching as much possible pleasurable

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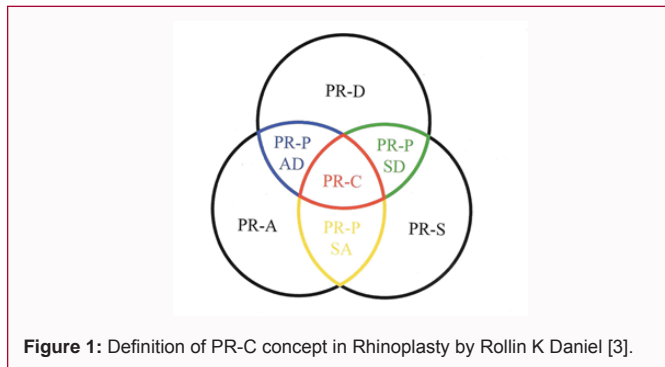


Figure 1: Definition of PR-C concept in Rhinoplasty by Rollin K Daniel [3].

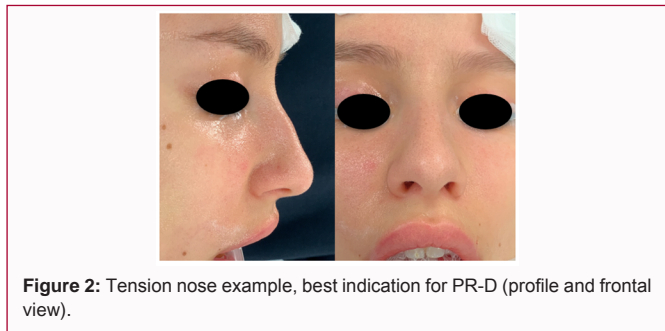


Figure 2: Tension nose example, best indication for PR-D (profile and frontal view).

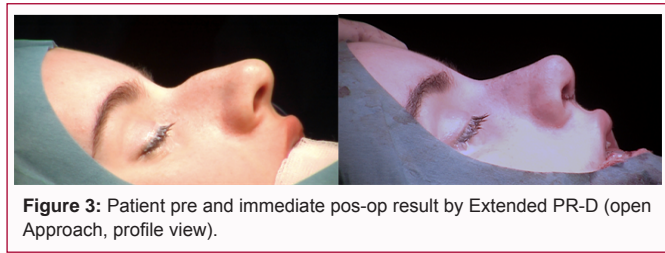


Figure 3: Patient pre and immediate post-operative result by Extended PR-D (open Approach, profile view).

aesthetic and functional results [2].

The emerging and overwhelming concept of surgical preservation is related to structure, to anatomy and consecutively to the function, and is well defined in concept of Preservation Rhinoplasty (PR) [2].

By another definition, it could be divided in some different ways that are shown in Figure 1. The first is the PR-S, which can be defined by elevation of the Skin Tissue Envelope (STE). The second is the PR-D, which can be defined by the preservation of osseocartilaginous vault of the nasal dorsum. The third one is the PR-A, which can be defined by a minimal or no alar resection, sutures for reshaping the tip area [3]. All those preservation rhinoplasty types could be overlapping, combining different types of surgical preservation, unifying itself in complete Preservation Rhinoplasty (PR-C) [3].

The best indications for PR-D are very well defined in the medical literature [2,3]. PR-D is suitable to corrections a dorsal nasal pathology with classical nasal situations, as listed ahead [4]. Those situations are a straight nose with or without moderate hump (rhinion and kyphion); a short nasal bone with weak upper lateral cartilages; and a tension nose with compromised internal nasal valve shown in Figure 2.

Otherwise, the PR-D has some limitations, such as follows a big hump; or some irregularities on nasion, rinion and big kyphion of nasal pyramid; or a long nasal bones and/or thick nasal bones [3].

In a nasal surgery, the surgeon can reach very important

difficulties in some special structural issues that make PR-D not a good approach, as severe or complex septal deviations; surgical indication to removal of the perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone [3]. This aspects needs to be highlighted.

Aesthetic and structural disadvantages frequent in this PR-D concept are infantilization of the profile aspect (possible incompatibility in some anthropological/ethnic groups); and the presence of the bones “step” in central nasion area after transverse osteotomies, performed at “push-down” and “let-down” techniques [2,3].

Due to those mentioned limitations, problems and disadvantages we were faced with difficulties in executing surgeries with complex pathology by principles of classical dorsal preservation rhinoplasty.

To be able to solve these issues, we decided to enlarge and modify the concept of PR-D by introducing an Extended Dorsal Preservation Rhinoplasty Concept (Extended PR-D Concept). This new concept consists of perform a classical Cottle Septoplasty, followed by rhinosculpture and finished with partial lateral osteotomies.

The goal of this paper is to present the Extended Dorsal Preservation Rhinoplasty Concept (Extended PR-D Concept).

### Results and Methods

The Extended Dorsal Preservation Rhinoplasty Concept (Extended PR-D Concept) was performed in 37 patients. Patients had nasal pyramid deformity such as slight dorsal deviation, big hump, long nasal bone with thick ones, asymmetry and irregularities on dorsal osseocartilaginous pyramid and broad nasal “bridge”, isolated or combined.

To complete, all the patients had significant structural internal nasal deformity documented by nasal tomography (CT) scan and rhinodebitomanometry. Trauma etiology was found in only 2 patients and development deformation in the others 35 patients. All procedures were performed after informed written consent.

A New Extended PR-D concept was performed only by open approach, most because the rhinosculpture needs a great surgical nasal bones exposure, both to have a good visualization of the surgical field and to place the surgical instruments used in this surgical step. The ultrasonic piezo-electric instrument was Piezotome M+ by COMEG<sup>®</sup> used in all patients, for osteotomies and for rhinosculpture.

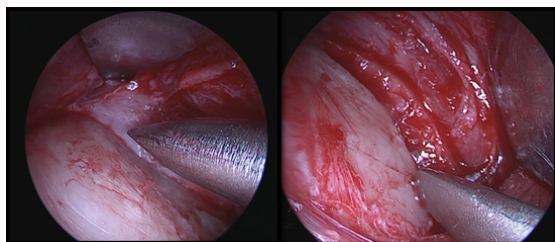
Always started with a classical Cottle Septoplasty for a complete resolution of any structural and functional problem. Depending on the necessity of each patient, the resection of quadrangular cartilage and/or perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone was done, in smaller or wider extent way. The classical L strut of cartilage was always preserved. In some case reimplantation of the tissue, straight cartilage and bone, was performed as much as possible.

The rhinosculpture was performed by rasping the bony hump and/or irregularities on dorsal and lateral surface of nasal bones by piezo scrapping tip, also with hard and fine rasps (RHS1, RHS2HB and RHS2FB). This must be delicate, and consernig for not disturbing the K-stone area, even in patients with prominent hump following principles of preservation attitude [4, 5]. This example can be shown at Figure 3.

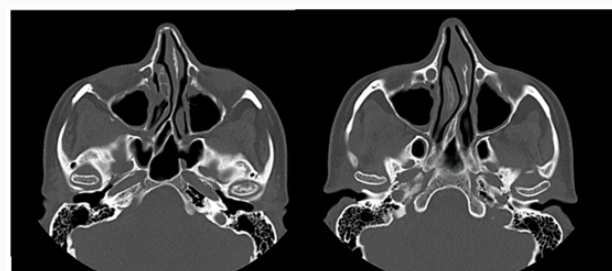
A “LOW-to-LOW” osteotomies was performed by piezo scrapping tip (RHS1), as shown in Figure 4. The oblique cut, of the bony surface, started on the border of the piriform aperture [4,5]. When reached



**Figure 4:** “LOW-to-LOW” osteotomies example performed by piezo scrapping tip (RHS1). Modified from: Patient Information Series: Rhinoplasty, Visuluma Scientific Visualization, EAFPS 2019.



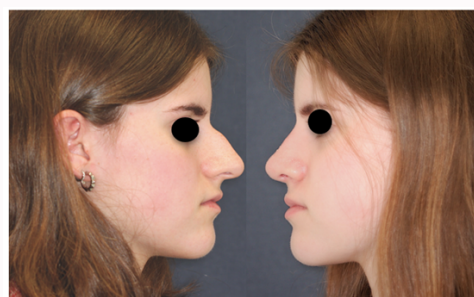
**Figure 5:** Partial Lateral osteotomy done with *Ultrasonic Piezotome* (endoscopic image, patient’s left side). Right image show the bone dorsum and glabella area and note that the surgical instrument point to an incomplete osteotomy. Left image show the basal part of the osteotomy, close to the pyramid area. Note that the internal *periosteum* is preserved.



**Figure 7:** Axial nasal CT scan with severe septal deformity.



**Figure 6:** Different types of pyramid deformities (kyphosis) with the indication of which surgical concept is applicable in solving it (Classical concept vs. Extended PR-D).



**Figure 8:** Pre and 1 year post-op result by Extended PR-D (open Approach, profile view).

the area of medial eye canthus area, 2 mm lower of it, the orientation needs to turn upwards in the direction of the maxillary-nasal suture that surpasses for 2 mm to 3 mm. The cut/osteotomies should end between 2 mm to 4 mm in front of the junction of the nasal bones (sutura internasalis) on the midline, and it is important to adapt to each patient’s anatomy [6]. This can be exemplified in Figure 4 and 5.

Sometimes, it is necessary an intermediary osteotomies, that were performed in the cases of slight crooked nose on previous fracture line, up to 3 mm to 4 mm laterally of sutura internasalis, cranially of K-stone area [4,6]. It is important to highlight that there was no secondary deviation of the bone fragments in the follow up of 1-2 years in all patient.

**Discussion**

Nasal pyramid deformities implicate different clinical situations and solving as shown in Figure 6 [7,8]. A nasal pyramid deformity, deviated and/or irregular, can be checked as a simple and “superficial” observation in physical examination and maybe the surgical planning can look relatively easy. However, in some cases, a surgical planning

is not so linear.

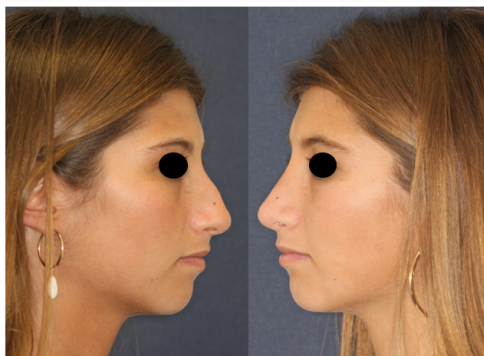
The boundaries between those patients are actually a severe septal deviation presented on CT scan, similar to shown in Figure 7. This kind of septal deformity does not allow the classical removal of a strip of high septal cartilage and perpendicular plate [2]. So, a structural inner nasal deformity is a “challenging” surgical issue [9].

In these situations, a severe nasal septal deviation is present with the functional necessity to remove the perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone in order to establish normal respiratory function. So, it is important to highlight that in a nasal surgery, the surgeon can reach very important difficulties in some special structural issues that make PR-D not a good approach, as severe or complex septal deviations; Necessity to remove the perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone [3].

There is a tendency of superficial approach underestimating the “septal” surgical relevance. The tendency is to consider it as minor surgical procedure, with no importance and easy to perform, especially by young trainees. There is no preoccupation with the structure, airflow, and pressure or air resistance. This attitude is maybe one of the principal iatrogenic causes of nasal pyramid deformity.

Frequently forgotten, the fact is that structural deformities of interior of the nose, cartilaginous and osseous, as in any other





**Figure 9:** Pre and 1 year post-op result by Extended PR-D (open Approach, profile view).



**Figure 10:** Pre and 1 year post-op result by Extended PR-D (open Approach, profile view).

constructional and mechanical system, define the outer and external deformities and it is very important and obligatory to be corrected. These types of patients have the best and correct indication the New Extended concept of PR-D.

In the new concept of Extended PR-D, a structural correction of the inner nasal deformities, which includes major septoplasty with removal of perpendicular plate, and reestablishing a normal function of the nose, is a mandatory surgical goal. This functional correction attitude gives us the important aesthetic contributes, needing just a slight plastic retouch to achieve an almost perfect aesthetic.

Classical PR-D concept resolves minor deformities with otherwise balanced nose [2,3,4]. It needs the exact excision of infra dorsal septal (Vitruvian maneuver, Tetris concept) combined with lateral and transverse osteotomies, to obtain a perfect profile, with minimal surgical trauma and preservation of K-area [10]. This technique, by "let-down" and "push-down" techniques, is separating the nasal pyramid of its insertion of maxillofacial skeleton on behalf of preserving the K-area [4,6,10].

In any procedures of straightening of the width of a nasal pyramid or repositioning of the deviated nose in the midline, osteotomies are conventionally used [9-18]. Changes introduced lately in osteotomy technique, improved dramatically postoperative results. In other words, a "perforating" line effect of 2 mm to 3 mm osteotomes which preserve periosteal connections and reduce the soft tissue damage in external percutaneous osteotomies [19-21].

With the new technology Ultrasonic Piezo-electric cut instruments, the surgical trauma was practically resolved and the



**Figure 11:** Pre and 15 months post-op result by Extended PR-D (open Approach, profile and frontal view).

precision was obtained, especially when done by open approach, with direct vision, as well as augmented security avoiding undesirable prolongations of the fracture line and the preservation of the inner periosteum [17-29].

The "bone step" as result of the any type of osteotomy (even with piezo-electric tools) is inevitable, except in some maneuvers as in described in the "slide down" maneuver [5, 25].

In our experience, deformities initiate caudally of intercanthal line, which is in average 7 mm to 10 mm below of the sutura nasofrontalis [30]. It is a perfect place to locate a transverse osteotomy or 1 mm to 2 mm below [31].

The presumption of the concept of Classical Preservation Rhinoplasty is to have a strait septum or minor septal deformity easy to correct and it is essential to support disinserted structure, a "floating" nasal pyramid [3].

To prevent undesirable mobilization, it is required a cranial fixation of disinserted ("loose") pyramid or harmonization with camouflage procedure like free- diced cartilage [29,30]. This is not an easy and clear procedure as in Gubisch technique, due to a height, high localization, of the form and the cut itself [9,29,30].

In the case of severe structural deformity of nasal septum in its cartilaginous and/or bony part (quadrangular cartilage, vomer and perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone) it is practically impossible to maintain this concept.

From another point of view, a possible solution in this type of pathology, which needs structural support like in major septal deformities, but respecting the principles of preservation rhinoplasty, is the new concept of extended dorsal preservation rhinoplasty (Figures 7-11).

The most evident deformations of the nasal bone pyramid are located on the caudal border of the nasal bones (margo inferior ossi nasalis and rhinion) which denotes the K-stone area needing for its correction with rhinosculpture, plus lateral and intermediate osteotomies [4,6,32].



The damage of the K-stone area is avoided by using the rhino sculpture concept. The use of the scrapping tool from ultrasonic piezotome allows to reshape the dorsum and maxilla. The uncapping of the bone over the upper lateral cartilages is necessary; preserving always the dorsal integrity and this step is very important and happens in a lot of cases.

Minor osseous deformities and irregularities can also be restored by this method without a need to separate and/or break the nasal bones or the processus frontalis. Ultrasonic-piezo electric equipment permitted to shape and reshapes the bony part without the need to disrupt the osseocartilaginous connection of the K-Area and maintaining the upper lateral cartilage undamaged. The minor bony or even moderate bony humps were easily removed [22-25].

Afterwards, as described, a "LOW-to-LOW" osteotomies were performed after scrapping the maxillary bone, starting from piriform aperture and without junction in the midline. In our patients, a forming of "floating" pyramid was prevented by the preserving a fragment of the nasal bones in millimeter distance (3 mm to 4 mm) of the sutura internasalis bilaterally.

With this bone preservation, osteotomies (intermediate as well as lateral) turned to be incomplete (partial). This tiny bone connection was sufficient to support the nasal pyramid. Maintaining the connection with glabellar region (sutura frontonasalis) additional support was reached, providing even more stability with no need for fixation of suspended fragments [29,30,32,33]. This fact made possible performing one and/or two more intermediate osteotomies on secure approach.

By the principle of "pressure spring", the spontaneous positioning of deviated/fractured fragment can be reached into the correct position. Commonly complete osteotomy leads to "sinking" of the free fragment and over correction, needing doubtful repositioning measures and/or camouflage techniques.

In this new surgical concept of partial osteotomies, the elasticity of the tissue corrects the defect appropriately, on the right measure and on right location. Without the use of force it just "sits" in right position, and still maintains secured by midline junction. Also, the bony "step" in nasion area was avoided, especially with obliquely oriented piezo-electric cut [32-34]. It decreased even mores a "step" by previous piezo-electric scrapping of the maxillary bone, on the locations where the osteotomy should be performed.

In actual state of our surgical progress, based on two years follow-up period, some points in our attitudes towards Preservation Rhinoplasty were very well clarified as bellow.

1. Classical PR-D concept should be selected to patients with strait or slight deviated dorsum, with small bony hump, short nasal bones and presence of structural septal support (straight or slightly deviated/deformed nasal septum).

2. With an open surgical approach rhinoplasty assisted by piezo-electric instruments.

3. The preservation of upper lateral cartilages (especially Key-area) is obligatory in every primary and possibly in revision cases due to use piezo-electric instruments.

Due to impossibility and limitation of the Classical Preservation Rhinoplasty Concept in some specific cases, we try to perform the new Extended PR-D Concept. It is destined to severe nasal septal

deviations/deformations and functional necessity to remove or vastly resect perpendicular plate of ethmoid bone. Partial and incomplete osteotomies are necessary to achieve good results. Also, it is necessary to perform a carefully rhinosculpture.

In the "jungle" and the "noise" of information all around rhinoplasty surgery, the correct pathway of acquiring the knowledge is a difficult task. Without the correct and expert senior orientation it is even harder.

Sometimes we are driven to "misty" areas, "wondering", "lost" in concepts, techniques and skills. Confusions and contradictions leave us undecided and susceptible to make mistakes. But, the capability to hear, to see, to elect, to select, to doubt, to prove, to double check can leads us to correct direction.

On the end, we can define our choice, define our strategy and finally name our concept. It worked for our patients and us. The objective was fulfilled and utmost concept of medicine was respected: "Primum nil nocere" by Ἱπποκράτης ὁ Κῶος (Hippocrates of Kos) (460AC-377AC).

## Conclusion

The benefits vs. contraindications and limitations in dorsal preservation rhinoplasty concept were presented. In severe nasal septal deformations associated with necessity of major septoplasty associated to pyramid deformity a New Concept of Extended Dorsal Preservation Rhinoplasty is presented (New Extended PR-D).

The New Extended PR-D Concept is indicated in case of pyramid deformity as more large (not only minor) humps, long and thick nasal bones, wide nasal bridge, slight asymmetries and bony deviations.

The New Extended PR-D is based on septoplasty, rhinosculpture and partial and incomplete osteotomies.

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