

2. Topalan M, Bilgin-Karabulut A, Ermis I. "Extracorporeal loop" (blind loop): an alternative microsurgical technique for prelaminate flap transfer. *J Reconstr Microsurg* 2002;18:155–8.
3. Lin CH, Mardini S, Lin YT, et al. Sixty-five clinical cases of free tissue transfer using long arteriovenous fistulas or vein grafts. *J Trauma* 2004;56:1107–17.
4. Bruner S, Bickert B, Sauerbier M, et al. Concept of arteriovenous loupes in high-risk free-tissue transfer: history and clinical experiences. *Microsurgery* 2004;24:104–13.
5. Acland RD. Refinements in lower extremity free flap surgery. *Clin Plast Surg* 1990;17:733–44.

Wen-Ping Tsai  
Shyh-Jou Shieh

Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,  
Department of Surgery, National Cheng Kung University  
Medical Center, 138 Sheng-Li Road, Tainan 70428, Taiwan  
E-mail address: sjshieh@mail.ncku.edu.tw

© 2007 British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

doi:10.1016/j.bjps.2007.06.008

### An epic expert of hand neurosurgery: Homer

Widely known as the first epic poet in Greek and European civilisation, Homer is less famous as a brilliant expert of hand neurosurgery.

In the VIIIth book of the Iliad a duel between the Trojan hero Hector and the Greek infallible archer Teucer is narrated. Hector casts his lance towards the Greek, but the weapon is diverted by the goddess Athena, who is protecting Teucer's life from behind his shoulders.<sup>1</sup>

The Greek then, while straining an arrow with his bow against Hector, exposes that body site where the clavicle marks the border between the neck and the trunk, which is known by Hector as a very vulnerable area. The Trojan picks up a jagged stone from the ground and throws it with all his strength to Teucer's exposed shoulder. This tremendous projectile harms Teucer's nerves.

The Greek then drops his right hand, kneels down in pain and his bow miserably falls to the ground. From this free translation of the mythological episode, a brachial plexus palsy is evident.

This is the first description ever reported of brachial plexus paralysis in European culture.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to this, the poetic note reports a great victory of human intellect, represented by Hector's knowledge of anatomy, which allows him to beat his very strong opponent.<sup>3,4</sup> Mind and knowledge are therefore the best weapon and appear to win over the irrationality and the deceit of the dark pagan divinities (Athena diverting Hector's lance).

The Authors are very grateful to Professor Ezio Morelli, Founder and Director of the Department of Hand Surgery of Legnano (MI) Italy, from 1964 to 1988, for transmitting to his students his passion for peripheral nerve surgery and its history.

### References

1. Sahlas DJ. Functional neuroanatomy in the pre-Hippocratic era: observations from The Iliad of Homer. *Neurosurgery* 2001;48:1352–7.
2. Terzis JK, Sun DD, Thanos PK. Historical and basic science review: past, present, and future of nerve repair. *J Reconstr Microsurg* 1997;13:215–25.
3. Little KM, Zomorodi AR, Selznick LA, et al. An eclectic history of peripheral nerve surgery. *Neurosurg Clin N Am* 2004;15:109–23.
4. Liu CY, Apuzzo ML. The genesis of neurosurgery and the evolution of the neurosurgical operative environment: part I-prehistory to 2003. *Neurosurgery* 2003;52:3–19.

M. Verga, G. Verna, F. Boriani, M.A. Bocchiotti, S. Bruschi  
Department of Plastic Reconstructive and  
Aesthetic Surgery, University of Turin, Italy  
E-mail address: maurizio.verga@unito.it

E. Morelli  
Department of Plastic and Hand Surgery,  
Hospital of Legnano, Milan, Italy

© 2007 British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

doi:10.1016/j.bjps.2007.07.016

### Corrigendum to: Hemi-orbicularis oculi switch flap for upper eyelid defects, *JPRAS* 2007, Vol. 60(6), pp. 655–658

Ayato Hayashi <sup>a,\*</sup>, Yuzo Komuro <sup>b</sup>, Yukiko Koga <sup>b</sup>,  
Terence M. Myckatyn <sup>c</sup>, Akira Yanai <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,  
Juntendo Shizuoka Hospital, 1129 Nagaoka Izunokuni-city,  
Shizuoka 410-2295, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,  
Juntendo University School of Medicine,  
3-1-3 Hongo Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8431, Japan

<sup>c</sup> Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,  
Washington University School of Medicine, 660 S. Euclid  
Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1010, USA

One of the author's names, Terence M. Myckatyn, appeared wrongly in the published version of this article. It presents correctly above.

© 2007 British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

doi:10.1016/j.bjps.2007.07.001

DOI of original article: 10.1016/j.bjps.2006.11.017

\* Corresponding author.