

What is Maxilla Reconstruction?

The **maxilla** is the upper jawbone, which plays a key role in **chewing, speaking, facial structure, and supporting the eyes, nose, and teeth.**

When part or all of the maxilla is removed due to **cancer, trauma, or infection**, it can lead to significant functional and cosmetic challenges.

Why is Reconstruction Needed?

Without reconstruction, patients may face:

- Difficulty eating and speaking
- Nasal regurgitation (food/liquid leaking into the nose)
- Facial deformity or collapse of midface
- Emotional and psychological impact

How is Maxilla Reconstructed?

Reconstruction depends on how much of the bone and surrounding tissue is lost. Techniques include:

1. Free Flap Reconstruction

- Tissue (bone, muscle, skin) is taken from another part of the body and connected using microvascular surgery.
- Common donor sites:
 - **Fibula (leg bone)** – ideal for bony structure and dental implants
 - **Scapular flap** – good for complex 3D facial reconstruction
 - **Iliac crest (hip bone)** – offers curved bone for midface support but avascular, not suitable for large bony reconstructions.

2. Obturator (Prosthesis)

- A removable dental-like device that closes the gap in the palate.
- Used when surgery is not an option or as a temporary solution.

Goals of Reconstruction

- **Restore facial appearance**
- **Allow proper speech and swallowing**
- **Enable dental rehabilitation (implants or dentures)**
- **Rebuild confidence and quality of life**