Nasal tip surgery beyond tripod theory

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Jack Anderson proposed tripod theory that the alar cartilages have three legs by the two lateral crura and medial crura. Modern concept of nasal tip dynamics has evolved by the introduction of intermediate crura and reconstruction rather than resection in the past. In tripod concept shortening the legs decreases projection, and depending on the degree of shortening of the medial and lateral crura, there is a variable effect on rotation. The more laterally resected lateral crura results deprojection and rotation whereas shortening of the medial crura causes deprojection and counter-rotation. The

tripod concept did not explain intermediate crura, the effects of lengthening the legs and its effects on the lobule, columella, alar margin, alar base. When lengthening the medial, intermediate, or lateral crura with grafts, projection can be increased and rotation can be controlled depending on the location of grafts. In modern era of rhinoplasty making aesthetically-pleasing tip lobule is very important and all efforts should be made for that purpose by grafts and refinements beyond tripod theory.