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# The Okuda Papers

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I have known of the existence of these historic papers for many years. Due to the old kanji (Japanese pictographs) employed, the writing is unintelligible in parts to modern Japanese medical readers. In addition, the work is very long (50 pages of kanji), so for these reasons it is unlikely that any previous English translation exists. It is possible that there was a German translation in the 1940s, as Rolf Nordstrom was told of the existence of this work by a German surgeon Professor H.C. Friederich over 20 years ago. The technique employed by Okuda was virtually identical to that employed by Orentreich some 16 years later and Professor Friederich preferred to use the term Okuda/Orentreich technique when referring to modern punch grafts.

When visiting Japan in August 2003, I



Dr. Yoshihiro Imagawa, at the request of his son Dr. Kenichiro Imagawa, translated the Okuda papers into English.



Kenichiro Imagawa, MD was shown the papers in the original Japanese by ISHRS colleague, Dr. Kenichiro Imagawa, who practices in Yokohama. We discussed what a pity it was that these pages, loaded with scientific detail, were not available to us. He explained that he personally found it very difficult to read the work, but that his father, Dr. Yoshihiro Imagawa, a retired Gynaecologist who had lived some years in the United States, may be able to help with the outdated Kanji. True to his word, the translation, in near-perfect English, was ready by the time of the New York ISHRS meeting two months later, written neatly in long-hand and covering 211 pages; an amazing achievement for anyone, and a miraculous labor for the love of science for a man of 82 years.

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