

### boards fodder

## Dermatologic surgery undermining planes

By Michael J. Visconti, DO, and M. Laurin Council, MD, FAAD



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### Eyelid undermining

Plane: Above orbicularis oculi muscle

The eyelid has **minimal subcutaneous tissue**, therefore undermining is performed immediately above orbicularis oculi

The diagram shows the layers of the eyelid: Epidermis, Dermis, Thin SubQ, Undermining Plane (between Thin SubQ and Orbicularis), Orbicularis (containing Vein and Artery), Tarsal Plate, and Palpebral Conjunctiva. The histology image shows the same layers with labels for Undermining Plane, Orbicularis, Tarsal Plate, and Palpebral Conjunctiva.

### Auricular undermining

Plane: Above perichondrium

There is minimal to no adipose tissue on the ear, therefore undermining is immediately above perichondrium

The diagram shows the layers of the ear: Epidermis, Dermis, Loose Connective Tissue, Undermining Plane (between Loose Connective Tissue and Perichondrium), Perichondrium, Cartilage, Perichondrium, Dermis, and Epidermis. The histology image shows the Anterior Ear, Posterior Ear, Undermining Plane, and Cartilage.

### Scalp undermining

Plane: Within subgaleal space

Undermining is within the **subgaleal plane** on the scalp due to its avascular nature

The diagram shows the layers of the scalp: Skin, SubCutaneous tissue, Aponeurosis (Galea), Loose connective tissue, and Periosteum. The histology image shows the Epidermis, Dermis, Subcutaneous Fat, Undermining Plane (within the Galea Aponeurosis), Loose Connective Tissue, Periosteum, and Bone.

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#### Lip undermining

Plane: Above orbicularis muscle

**External** ← Epidermal-Mucosal Junction → **Internal**

#### Distal nose undermining

Plane: Submuscular fascia, periosteum, or perichondrium

**External** ← Epidermal-Mucosal Junction → **Internal**

#### Lower cheek undermining

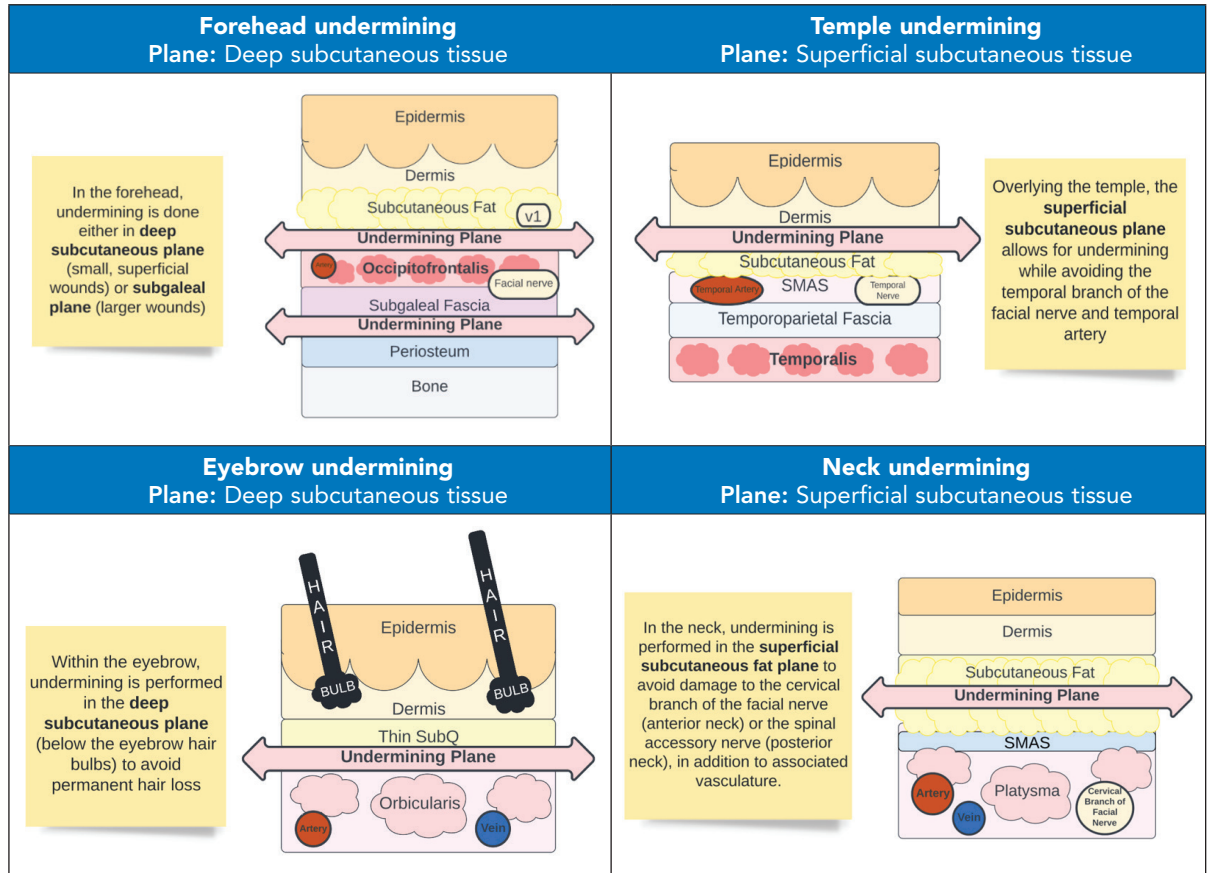
Plane: Mid subcutaneous plane

**External** ← Epidermal-Mucosal Junction → **Internal**

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