

General Information – Hair Transplant Surgery

1. HAIR TRANSPLANTATION, related medical terms:
Donor Area: Grafts are harvested from the donor area located on the back and sides of the scalp.
Hair Density: Individuals vary considerably in the density of the hair in the donor area. Hair density is determined by the closeness of follicles to one another, not by the texture or caliber of the hair.
2. Hair loss may require 1-3 sessions in each area of hair loss. The doctor may vary the order of these procedures to achieve the optimum results and to fit your schedule and appearance requirements.
3. The following points apply:
 - a) The same complications may follow this cosmetic surgical procedure as may follow any other type of surgical procedure. These include the following complications which rarely occur: Inflammation, infection, excessive scar tissue, wide scar, permanent loss of feeling in the scalp of the crown head, allergy to suture material, foreign body reaction, blood vessel reaction, dermoid cyst formation, allergy to medications, and loss of pigment of grafts. More common complications would be an area of permanent loss of feeling on the crown of the head due to failure of nerves to grow back to this area, or wider scarring in the case of limited blood supply to my donor area (only in strip method).
 - b) Following the procedure, you may expect some degree of swelling and possibly some discoloration or bruising temporarily. You could have swelling for 2 to 5 days post-op, and must sleep with your head elevated, on 3 pillows for 5 nights, to help prevent swelling. The anti-swelling solution will usually prevent swelling.
4. Male or Female Pattern Baldness is a progressive disorder which may start at an early age and progress throughout life. The doctor makes his best estimate of your future pattern based on family history and other factors, but it is impossible to determine exactly how far it will progress. It may require additional procedures, if it progresses farther than anticipated. It is important not to start these procedures at too young an age, or if starting young, to be very conservative in the hair restoration process. If losing hair slowly, it is best to replace your hair slowly (over a few years to match the rate of natural hair loss).

One must work with the doctor in locating the hair line or other factors so it will not be too low or in an inappropriate place.

The interval between hair transplant procedures is usually 8-12 months. This is to allow time for the skin to remodel and smooth itself, and for hair to grow out. Healing rates vary, so the interval could be more or less. Usually, 1-3 transplant sessions are needed in any one area, depending on the density desired. For example, 1-3 sessions are needed for the hairline, the top, and the crown. However, hairline, top, and crown may be transplanted simultaneously.

As hair loss progresses, future touch-up sessions may be needed to fill new areas of hair loss surrounding the previously transplanted area. Hair restoration is an art form, and thus cannot be properly judged until it is completed.

You will not achieve final results until you have completed ALL of your treatment plan, including any additional procedures for touch-up or additional hair loss, and the hair has all grown for 1-2 years. The treatment plan is 1-3 sessions in each area depending on the density desired, plus touch-ups at 1 and 2 years, plus an additional 1-3 sessions in any area of additional hair loss.
5. Sometimes placing grafts in a given area with some remaining hair in it may cause hair shock, which generally results in the hair in the given area falling out, before re-growing in three to four months, although it may never regrow in rare cases.
6. If you are a slow healer, or you are losing hair slowly, it may be necessary to take one to three years between transplant procedures.
7. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science and, therefore, reputable practitioners cannot properly guarantee results. No absolute guarantee has been made by anyone regarding the hair transplant, but that the doctor will make his best effort on your behalf.