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Hair transplantation in women

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20- 30% of all women suffer from female pattern hair loss (FPHL) in the US. Society expects to see hair thinning and hairline recession in men; however, it is less socially acceptable when it occurs in women. Fortunately, most women can be aided with a combination of both medical and surgical therapies. Minoxidil is the only FDA approved treatment for at this time. In the majority of women, it stops progression of the disease and can rethicken hair. Many women with FPHL are candidates for hair transplantation. With the use of follicular unit transplantation with smaller 1-4 follicular unit grafts, very good cosmetic, natural-appearing results can be achieved. Consultation for hair transplantation with a female patient differs somewhat than with a male patient. Because of the nature of FPHL, the patient is often more concerned about the 'see-through' nature of the scalp, as opposed to regression of the hairline or loss at the vertex scalp. They have a more unpredictable donor area. They can demonstrate telogen effluvium postoperatively. In addition, it is important to perform a detailed scalp examination and consider further labs and potentially scalp biopsy to differentiate FPHL from telogen effluvium or scarring alopecias. In consultation, the patient should be made aware that net cosmetic outcome and density will reflect the amount of hairs transplanted minus the ongoing hair loss. In addition, placing the hairs predominantly in the frontal scalp, as opposed to diffusely spreading it throughout the involved areas will lead to a better cosmetic outcome. The main procedural consideration for the surgery is that transplanted hairs will be placed in between existing hairs.

The talk will begin with a general introduction, review differences between females and males, as well as technical considerations. The majority of the talk will be case based.

Biography

Dr. Meena Singh is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatologic surgeon currently practicing in New York City and Kansas City. She attended Harvard Medical School, trained at the Mayo Clinic, and completed a surgical fellowship in New York City, in which she became trained in Mohs Micrographic Surgery, as well as cosmetic dermatology procedures, such as Botox, lasers, and fillers. She also completed a fellowship with the International Society for Hair Restoration Surgery under world-renowned surgeon Dr. Marc Avram, and was trained in all hair transplantation techniques, including strip excision and manual/motorized/robotic follicular unit extraction, as well as transplanting into scarring alopecias. She also specializes in medical treatments for hair loss of all types. Dr. Singh also has an interest in treating ethnic skin/skin of color. Dr. Singh has performed clinical trials in laser hair stimulation, as well as studies in hair transplantation for scarring and non-scarring forms of hair loss. She has also performed investigative studies on skin cancer in transplant recipients, as well as tissue engineering. She has numerous publications in many peer-reviewed dermatology journals, book chapters, and has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine. She is a reviewer for the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology and the Dermatologic Surgery journal. She has had numerous TV appearances and her blog articles have also been published in online and print periodicals. Dr. Singh has also been featured on the cover of New York Times.

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