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Ultra-refined Follicular Unit Transplantation into scar tissue as an alternative to surgical scar revision in hair bearing scalp

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Background: Scars in hair bearing scalp present unique challenges. While scar revision is the main tool in the reconstructive surgeon's armamentarium, at times it may have either contributed to the scar problem or may not be an ideal choice. Hair transplantation offers an alternative in select cases. A review of 12 repair cases is presented with discussion of specific nuances particular to graft placement into scar tissue.

Materials and Methods: Review of 12 cases of hair transplantation to repair scars in hair bearing scalp in patients with at least 1 year follow up.

Results: All 12 patients had good to excellent coverage of their scars with hair transplantation using follicular unit harvest by either strip or FUE. In 3 patients, particularly dense and fibrous parts of the treated scar showed less growth but still a significant growth yield. Full growth often required 15 months.

Discussion: In this series, both strip and FUE graft harvest was utilized. In both techniques, minimal trimming of subcutaneous tissue was performed so that the follicular unit was transplanted with slightly more surrounding tissue than for a standard hairline case. Recipient slits were therefore made slightly wider, averaging 1.25mm and minimal pressure was used in graft placement.

Conclusion: In patients with scars in hair bearing scalp, hair transplantation offers an alternative to surgical scar excision. Careful harvest and placement of slightly thicker grafts into properly created recipient slits yields consistent and cosmetically pleasing results.

Biography

William H. Lindsey is a graduate of the University of Richmond where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1986. He graduated from the University of Virginia-Medical School in 1990 and completed his residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at UVA in 1995. Following his residency, he completed a specialized fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery under the auspices of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship in South Carolina. At the conclusion of his fellowship, he returned to the University of Virginia as an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology for 4 years. He moved to Northern Virginia in 2000 to practice Hair Transplantation and facial plastic surgery and joined the staff at George Washington University Medical Center. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He is an associate of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, a member of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgeons. He has been practicing hair transplantation for over 18 years with hundreds of satisfied patients. By training and working with some of the biggest names in the industry he has produced his own unique protocols and methods that have gained him worldwide recognition among patients and surgeons alike. He performs high density, ultra-refined, follicular unit transplantation (FUT) via both strip method and Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE) method and performs mega sessions routinely.

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