

Hair Transplants

History

Dr. Okuda a Japanese dermatologist in 1939 first published in a Japanese medical journal back early methods and theories of hair transplantation.

In North America hair restoration was initiated in the 50's by Dr. Norman Orentreich with early relocation of hair grafts from the back and sides of the head and into the balding region. Dr. Orentreich proved that hair relocated from back and sides of the head retained the original genetic makeup of the donor region and therefore resisted balding. This was termed as "Donor Dominance" which became the basis for the modern day hair transplant procedure.

The early hair graft were performed as a punch graft where each graft contained between 15 to 25 hairs. When these grafts were placed into the recipient region they gave the appearance of a "corn row" or "doll's hair". For the time the procedure was revolutionary since balding region was covered and the hair remained intact.

In the 80's the advent of the mini and micrografts developed in what was a renaissance in the surgical hair transplantation technology. These minigrafts contained 4 to 8 hairs while the micrografts generally consisted of 1 to 3 hairs. Minigrafts were generally used to create density while the micrografts were generally utilized to provide a natural looking hairline after all hair never really grew in clumps but more of a staggered random look. Therefore when placed properly the final look is a very natural.

Modern Day Surgical Hair Restoration

The 1990's and the wider use of binocular microscopes resulted in the initiation of the **Follicular Unit Hair Transplantation (FUT)**. This procedure entailed stereoscopically dissecting out follicular units containing 1 to 3 hairs totally depending on how they were isolated from the donor region. Fut's were naturally occurring and therefore when placed in the recipient region, there was nothing that could look more natural.

Currently they have combined the FUT with the **Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE)** where the follicular unit is actually harvested separately and directly from the donor region without having to remove a strip of graft from the graft site. This method of harvesting is extremely labor intensive since it is the surgeon who harvests and places the transplanted graft himself. With **Follicular Unit Strip Extraction (FSE)** the donor graft is actually removed and technicians using microscopes actually divide up the grafts into follicular units which are more rapidly placed into position. This method allows for many more grafts to be placed in a single session.

The benefit of FUE is that there is less trauma to the donor region and thereby does not require as long a duration for healing. In addition this procedure is more desirable in individuals which lack elasticity of the scalp in the donor region. A lack of elasticity makes it difficult to approximate and suture the site after strip incision.