

Surgical Hair Restoration

I began losing my hair in my early 30's almost 16 years ago and in the late 80's hair loss options were few and far between. Early on I remembered staying up watching a late night infomercial selling this gel shampoo that was guaranteed to grow back your hair. Well let me tell you this was just one of several items I fell prey to.

Well since my hair recession was becoming greater than the national deficit by the mid 90's I decided that I had to be proactive and really consider doing something about being follicularly challenged. I contact a couple of well known transplant surgeons in Toronto and sat in on a consultation to determine the best mode of treatment.

As perused there at that time impressive catalog of before and after photographs it was quite evident what they could do for a balding head and if merely coverage was the answer that I was looking for, then I would have found it. The procedure at the time involved grafting micro and mini grafts consisting of 10 to 20 hair follicles and surgically transplanting them into the recipient site. The end result looked like a "corn row" or "dolls hair" and was the furthest thing from a natural look. This for the time, was state of the art and once again if you were just merely looking for coverage this was definitely an answer.

Another surgeons alternative at the time was to perform a surgical scalp reduction which would in effect reduce the surface area of hair loss and thereby reduce the number of micro and mini grafts necessary. Obviously this procedure would have shown quicker results however I was advised that complications were more common since a scalp reduction is much more invasive and therefore there was a higher risk of infection and possible poorer healing of the surgical scar.

It appeared that my options were becoming as thin as my hairline. I finally opted for non surgical hair replacement. This procedure offered me an alternative with instant gratification. That's right. I decided one day that I was tired of the balding look and I wanted hair and I wanted hair right away.

Although you may think that this move was a tad impulsive I can assure you that I researched the pros and cons to a fine point even to the point of which company has performed a significant number of good looking non surgical hair replacements. After all what is the point of having a hair system if it isn't going to look real.

Actual real hair is attached to a fine mesh which is measured to the dimension of the balding region of the scalp. This mesh is actually attached to your real hair wherever possible and regions where there is no hair to attach to, it is affixed with tape. The final look is that the hair from the system actually melds into your own hair seamlessly if done properly. For this reason if you are seeking the non surgical hair replacement approach as your alternative the company you choose should be able to work this into an art.

Well I had been wearing a hair system for almost 7 years and as I said it was great instant gratification. It looked real, it felt real in fact I could swim with it, exercise, shower, practically do whatever with it as if it was my own hair. The drawbacks were that the system had to be removed and reattached every four weeks which can be a

little pricey however the results were there for anyone to see. Since I was continually fighting the aging process I would have to dye my real hair monthly to match that of the system (since the system never aged). Even though it looked fabulous and no one could ever tell that it wasn't really mine, I always wanted to have my own head of hair back.

Well seven years of wearing a hair system and I had the itch again to start investing the surgical hair transplant approach. Well boy did the procedure change in the last seven years. Gone are the days of the mini and micro grafts. They were now using FUT – follicular unit transplants. Instead of the 10 to 20 hair grafts, now the grafts were only 1 to 3 hairs. It was a natural look especially in the hairline region which is the most obvious. The corn cobs were gone.

Now that I had determined that the FUT's definitely provided a very natural looking alternative I began to diligently investigate who is doing this procedure and how what did the final hair restoration look like. As I investigated many individuals that had undergone this newer FUT procedure I saw varying quality of results. Even though all the individuals I interviewed had the similar procedure, some of the work done was better in fact some cases much better than others. It was obvious to be skilled in the technique is one thing but artistic talent of the doctor holding the scalpel is a different story.

I finally decided that if I was to have a surgical hair replacement, then I would do it right. After all, you don't get second chances here. The donor hairs are precious commodities that are extremely limited and therefore they have to be placed right the first time. Well the Toronto Hair Transplant Clinic was where I had my hair restoration done. Monica and her team was like Michael Angelo in her design technique and her associates had a combined total of 30 years experience doing hair transplants. In fact they were doing the old corn cob method which at the time was state of the art.

A great surgeon and an artist with years of experience will determine prior to the procedure what type of results can be expected. By relaying this information to the patient surprise can be avoided. An artist will provide you with several alternatives of density and distribution which is dependant on the degree and quality of donor hair and the surface area that has to be covered.

Once you have determine which approach you will take towards your hair loss and if you determine that the surgical approach is correct then it would behoove you determine who would be the best for you.