

## MODERN HAIR TRANSPLANT PROCEDURES OVERVIEW

*"Hair transplant is the process of moving a precious limited amount of **donor hair** to a potentially expanding bald or thinning **recipient area** . We want to accomplish this in a manner that insures the patient will be satisfied with the results **now and in the future**. Patient satisfaction is dependent on meeting his/her expectations of **naturalness and density**"*

*Ronald Shapiro MD: From the Textbook Hair Transplantation*

Hair transplantation has undergone a virtual revolution of change in the last 10 to 20 years. When Hair Transplants first began large punch grafts were used which led to the pluggy look associated with older transplants. This is no longer the case. The desire to improve naturalness led to the use of progressively smaller grafts.

A revolutionary advance occurred when physicians observed that, under magnification, hair grows in tiny, naturally occurring groupings of 1-4 hairs called **follicular units**. With this observation, physicians began using microscopic magnification to produce tiny 1-3 hair grafts that keep these natural groupings intact. These 1-3 hair grafts are called Follicular Unit (FU) grafts and the technique of Follicular Unit Transplantation was born. This was a huge break through. Physicians now had a graft that was the exact size and shape that exists in nature. For the first time, physicians could replace hair exactly as it was originally found in nature, creating results so natural they are virtually undetectable; even under close examination. **FUT became, and still is the state of the art technique used today.**

### NATURAL RESULTS FROM FOLLICULAR UNIT TRANSPLANTATION



There are two primary methods of doing FUT surgery today.

1. **The traditional "Strip" Follicular Unit Transplant ("Strip" FUT)** method where donor hair is removed from the donor area in a single strip and later subdivided into grafts under a microscope.
2. **The Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE) method** where each graft is extracted individually from the donor area by a micro punch.

The major difference between these techniques is the method of donor harvesting with the rest of the procedure being primarily the same.

At SMG we are experts at both techniques. We attempt to choose the technique that is best for the patient based on

his unique situation. Clinics that can only perform one technique may tend to push a patient toward the “single” technique they perform; whether it is best for the patient or not.

As time goes on continual improvement and advancements have occurred in the field. Some of these innovations include **Mega-sessions, Dense Packing, Lateral Slit technique, Trichophytic Closures, & Scalp Micro pigmentation (SMP)**. In addition **Bio-Enhanced** procedures using **PRP, Acell Therapy, Hypothermosol & Vitrase therapy**, have further improved results.. SMG has been at the forefront of most of these advancements. In this section on the procedure we will discuss some of the basic concepts of hair transplants as well as some of these more advanced techniques used at SMG