



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

EFFICACY OF BEARD HAIR AS DONOR SOURCE IN HAIR TRANSPLANT IN ADVANCED GRADES OF BALDNESS

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Background: Hair Transplant Surgery is a scientifically and artistically demanding surgery. On an average, the number of grafts that can be safely extracted from the scalp in a single session varies from 1500-3500 depending on the size of the skull, existing hair density and amount of miniaturization present in the occipital & parietal scalp at the time of surgery. In patients with baldness of grade IV – VII of the Norwood scale, anywhere from 3000-10,000 grafts may be required to give a full coverage and cosmetically acceptable density of transplanted hair. In such situations there is a donor recipient mismatch.

Objective: Evaluate the role of FUE hair transplant surgery with beard hair as an additional donor source in hair transplant of advanced grades of baldness to reduce the donor recipient hair mismatch

Methodology: 280 patients with baldness of grades IV-VII, as described above, were included in the study. The study was a retrospective study in which photographic, dermoscopic, videographic and documentary records were analysed and the outcomes of the repair surgery evaluated. The patient satisfaction levels were graded as Excellent Satisfaction (8-10 on Visual Analog Scale), Good Satisfaction (5-7 on VAS) and Poor Satisfaction (1-4 on VAS).

Results: 60% of the patients reported satisfaction levels as Excellent, 30% patients reported satisfaction levels as Good and 10% reported Poor satisfaction levels.

Conclusion: Beard hair, though coarser and curlier than scalp hair, is definitely a viable and cosmetically acceptable source of donor hair in such cases. The patients satisfaction levels after the surgery are great. Over time, the coarseness and curliness of the beard hair, after being transplanted onto the scalp, reduces, a effect which can be attributed to the theory of recipient area dominance.

