

DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

HELPING CICATRICIAL ALOPECIA PATIENTS WITH FOLLICULAR UNIT EXTRACTION (FUE) HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGERY

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Introduction: Cicatricial alopecia either inflammatory or non inflammatory are characterized by an ultimate destruction of the pilosebaceous unit leading to irreversible hair loss. Medical management can only halt the further progress of this irreversible hair loss. Regrowth of the lost hairs may not be always possible by medical management. Also cicatricial alopecia can lead to psychosocial embarrassment and a lack of self-esteem and confidence. Such patients are always disappointed with the dermatologist for poor results. So restoration of the lost hairs is not only important from the cosmetic point but also from the psychosocial aspect. Various surgical modalities of treatment have been tried with variable response.

Materials and methods: Thirty one patients, 23 male and 8 female, of cicatricial alopecia were treated with follicular unit extraction (FUE) hair transplant. 200 to 1500 grafts were inserted in the cicatricial area depending on the size of the patch. 0.9mm punch size was used to extract the grafts from the donor area. And the grafts were inserted in the recipient area with pre made slits. The results were evaluated after 3 months, 6 months and 1year post surgery.

Results: All thirty-one patients were satisfied with the outcome of the surgery after a year. However the density of the hairs was less as compared with the existing hair density.

Conclusion: Follicular unit extraction hair transplant surgery can be considered as an option to give a good cosmetic coverage of hairs to the cicatricial alopecia patients and thereby improving their quality of life and self-confidence.