



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

## TRICHOSCOPY: WHAT HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGEONS SHOULD KNOW

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**Introduction:** Trichoscopy can be used by hair transplant surgeons to diagnose whether the patient is qualified for hair transplantation plus assess donor hair quality and density, aiding in the desired target number of grafts in hair restoration surgery.

**Objective:** To detail how trichoscopy can be of practical use in hair transplantation.

**Materials and Methods:** Usages of trichoscopy were reviewed to differentiate between hair loss that can be alleviated by medical and surgical procedure. Evaluation of any abnormal findings and hair characteristics combined with the patient's clinical presentation provide information for diagnosis and to be used in the surgical planning.

**Results:** There are many patients experiencing hair loss request hair transplant surgery when they might only need pharmacological therapy. Trichoscopy enables physicians to establish a precise diagnosis. Telogen effluvium presents empty hair follicles and many regrowing hairs instead of hair diameter diversity. The trichoscopic findings of scarring (cicatricial) alopecia are white patches with the disappearance of follicular orifices. Lichen planopilaris show perifollicular scaling and cicatricial white patches. Tufted hairs containing six or more hairs is the most common trichoscopic finding in folliculitis decalvans. Scalp psoriasis is characterized by multiple red dots and globules. Trichoscopy is beneficial in assessing hair density and quality before hair transplantation. The function of hair counting programs in trichoscopy provides the ability to count hair follicular units giving surgeons capability to evaluate hair quality, hair grouping and the number of desirable 2 to 3 hair follicular units. It also aids surgeons for cutting plan.

**Conclusion:** It is undeniable that hair transplant surgeons may come across patients with other alopecias than AGA during their patient encounters. And in such scenarios, trichoscopy is the best assessment for establishing accurate and rapid diagnoses. It delivers substantial advantages in preoperative evaluations and follicular hair counts.

