



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

APPROACH TO REVISION AFTER PUNCH GRAFTING USING FOLLICULAR UNIT EXTRACTION: A REPORT OF 2 CASES

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Background - Hair restoration techniques like Punch Grafting, micro-grafting are unable to produce natural appearing results and have now become a thing of past. The two most common aesthetic problems associated with punch grafting are the unsightly appearance of plugs giving a Doll's Head appearance and a poorly designed hairline.

The simplest approach to improperly angled grafts is removal. We hereby report two cases of revision done by FUE after a previous punch grafting.

Observation - A 52 year male, having surgical restoration of hair done by mini punch grafting 12 years back, came to us with current Grade IV of male pattern baldness (Hamilton-Norwood). He had bunches of hair around 3 – 3.5 mm in diameter scattered along the hairline and the frontal region giving doll's hair appearance. In the frontal area, the transplanted plugs besides being unsightly were growing in different directions. Similar was the case of 40 year male having undergone mini punch grafting over scalp (front, mid front and vertex) 8 years back.

We planned new hairline for the patients keeping their age and progressive nature of hair loss in mind. Hairlines were designed with a density of 35 FU/cm² (follicular unit) while reducing the density to 25 - 30 FU/cm² as we moved behind the hairline.

We extracted grafts that were grossly misdirected using FUE punch, which were then used for implantation. The punch used for extraction was of 0.85 mm diameter. Hair line was filled with scalp and chest FU's while mid-front and vertex was filled with beard and scalp FU's.

Key Message - In our view, the term punch grafting as a technique of hair restoration should be restricted to the procedures involving punches greater than 1.0 mm as opposed to FUE, in which the punch size is less than 1.00 mm.

