



forum

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

Follicular Unit Graft Yield Using Three Different Techniques (An Argument for the Strict Definition of Follicular Unit Transplantation)

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In a collaborative effort in 1998, 21 hair restoration surgeons in the ISHRS attempted to “Standardize the Classification and Description of Follicular Unit Transplantation and Mini-Micrografting Techniques.”¹ It has been the opinion of many physicians who perform Follicular Unit Transplantation (FUT) exclusively in their practices that strict definitions of FUT are essential, both to compare different techniques and to enable physicians to clearly communicate with their patients and with each other. However, some feel that strict definitions of FUT are unnecessary, especially with respect to the requirements for single-strip harvesting and stereo-microscopic dissection.

In order to test the validity of the argument that the techniques of single-strip harvesting and stereo-microscopic dissection are essential aspects of FUT, a retrospective study was conducted to examine the effectiveness of obtaining follicular units using different methods of harvesting and dissection in patients undergoing their first hair transplantation procedure.

The Three Techniques Studied

Mini-Micrografting Technique

The first technique is the one most similar to that used by mini-micrografters, namely harvesting with a multi-bladed knife (blades set 3mm apart), division into smaller sections (of approximately 1cm), and followed by subsequent dissection with loop magnification (1.5x) (Figure 1). The major difference between this technique and traditional

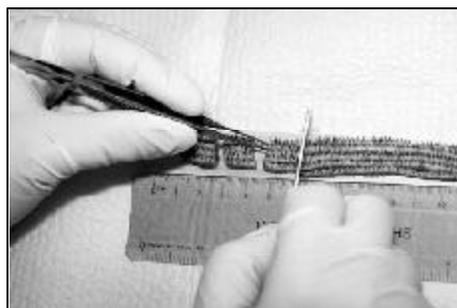


Figure 1. Mini-Micrografting Technique. Harvesting with a multi-bladed knife (blades set 3mm apart), division into smaller sections of approx 1cm (this step shown in figure), and subsequent dissection with loop magnification (1.5x).

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