The Hair Loss Profile and Index: A New Classification System for Pattern Balding

Bernard H. Cohen, MD *Miami, Florida*

For 50 years, the Hamilton-Norwood system has been used to characterize the stages and severity of baldness. In 2000, James Arnold, MD, introduced an alternative system based on the natural principles of biodiversity. Building on Dr. Arnold's insightful (and unpublished) observations, I introduced a new classification system at the 2002 Chicago ISHRS meeting. The full manuscript was published in the October issue of *Cosmetic Dermatology*. Reprints are available.

The new system is nothing more than a single sheet of paper that is printed with two *standardized* templates—a map and a chart. All that's required is a patient and a pencil. The system can depict the density, distribution, and total hair mass of every possible balding pattern. The first template is a 10-zone map of the scalp (see Figure 1). The zones are sequentially numbered to reflect the usual progression of male pattern hair
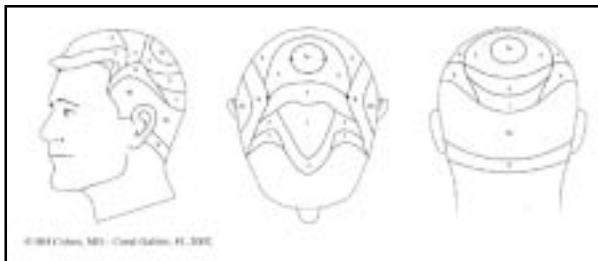

Figure 1. Ten-zone map of scalp (standardized template). Three sets of dots indicate dimensions to be measured.

Figure 2. Blank bar graph (standardized template). The bar graph matrix contains 100 cells and 11 fields. The number of cells assigned to each field is proportionate to the size of the zone.

loss. Their mosaic combinations conform to the classic Norwood renderings. The second template is a 100-cell weighted bar graph with 11 fields (see Figure 2). Each field represents one of the 10 zones. The number of cells assigned to each field is proportional to the relative size of that zone. The vertical axis defines the terminal hair density. The horizontal axis defines the fields.
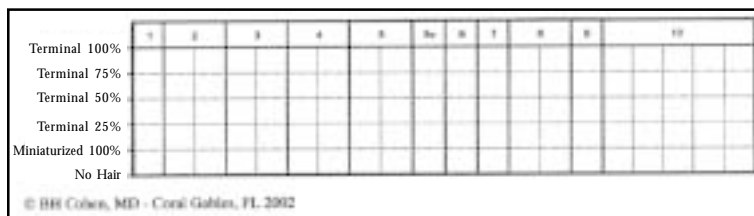
Method (Briefly)

The examiner identifies the location of Zones 1 through 10 and the three pairs of dots on the patient's scalp (see

Figure 3). Typically, the forehead measurement is 8.5 to 9.5cm. If it is greater than 11cm, one may assume that Zone 2 is hairless. The distance