



# forum

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## Reverse Follicular Extraction

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**I**n March 2003, at the Live Surgery Workshop in Orlando, Florida, Dr. Yves Crassas, watching me harvesting a follicular unit with an attached thread of long hair, said: "Marcelo, you are just doing a reverse follicular extraction." Starting from that remark, I began to figure a technique to extract follicular units without harming either the epidermis or the dermis. I have been performing this procedure during eyebrow transplantation and in sections of strips harvested during routine hair transplants. Due to the small number of surgeries already done by this approach, I don't have enough results to present. My objective with this note is to share

the idea with my ISHRS friends for evaluation and experimentation so we can improve this technique together.

### Surgical Technique

One horizontal incision is made, with two ascending 2cm incisions at the ends (Figure 1). This block is dissected using a scalpel blade at the subcutaneous fat layer, creating a trap door, and its 2 lateral borders are sutured to the scalp above with two Mononylon 5-0 stitches. (Figures 2 and 3)

Using magnifying glasses and, with the aid of Iris scissors with blunt tips or embracing the follicular units with a 1mm punch (Figure 4), the fat is

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Figure 1. Demarcating



Figure 3. Suturing



Figure 2. Trap door



Figure 4. From punch

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**The BIG One, Down Under**



**ISHRS 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
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