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Preview Long-Hair Follicular Unit Transplantation: An Immediate Temporary Vision of the Best Possible Final Result

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Preview long-hair follicular unit transplantation is a concept and a technique in which the patients submitted to a hair transplant can see, at the end of the procedure, a temporary preview of the final definitive result. This preview causes such a positive emotional impact on patients that it strengthens their connection to the procedure with favorable repercussions for the whole treatment.

In order to perform long-hair follicular unit transplantation (LH-FUT), the donor hair is not shaved or shortly trimmed, but kept long, to generate grafts, dissected under microscope vision, that contain long hair.

We have found that the hair could be any size, but should preferably be left no less than 5cm long to provide a suitable visual result. These long hair grafts are transplanted to the recipient area, that, at the end, shows a preview of the future new look of the patient after the hair transplant. This preview is temporary, because just like in traditional shaved hair transplantation, the hair transplanted, long or short, will gradually fall out in one to four weeks after the procedure. The final definitive result will be the same as the preview result, in numbers of hairs, if the long-hair grafts transplanted regrow in their totality.



Figure 1. Long-hair follicular unit transplantation provides the patient an immediate preview of the final result.

Technical and artistic excellence in all the steps of a hair transplantation procedure, along with individual patient factors, will define the final percentage of definitive growth, just like it happens in every traditional shaved hair graft transplant. If the percentage of the definitive hair growth is close to 100% of the hair transplanted, the final result can look even slightly fuller than the preview temporary result. This may occur because there may be a very small percentage of shaved or shortly trimmed hair grafts and telogen hair among the long-hair grafts. These short hair grafts and the telogens are obviously also transplanted with the long-hair grafts, but they do not add visible density to the preview result.

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