



# HAIR TRANSPLANT forum INTERNATIONAL



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## Scalp micro pigmentation (SMP): novel applications in hair loss

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Scalp micro pigmentation (SMP) is a permanent cosmetic “tattoo” that mimics the short hairs of a closely shaved scalp. SMP offers a new treatment option for patients who are not hair transplant candidates and are willing to keep their hair very short or shave their hair to scalp level. There are a few medical conditions that may have clear applicability to this procedure including patients with alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, and a variety of scarring types of alopecia. SMP also offers excellent camouflage with a short hair style for patients who have old plugs, have had scalp reductions, or have scars from hair transplant surgeries that are disfiguring or not amenable to the individual’s styling needs. There is a segment of regular hair transplant patients who would like to cut their hair short but are limited due to hair transplant scars from various harvesting techniques. SMP also offers an alternative to men who do not want a hair transplant surgery.

Since 2010, we have been offering SMP to a select group of patients who are not hair transplant candidates or for those who have had disappointing hair transplant results from failed hair transplant procedures. The following are case presentations of such individuals and their personal stories.

Case 1 is a healthy male in his mid-30s who had been diagnosed with scarring alopecia in his teens. He is not a hair transplant candidate. SMP addressed the scarring by blending in the hypopigmented areas with the adjacent shaved scalp.



Case 2 is a 30-year-old male who has had alopecia totalis since his teens. He always wore hats (indoors and out) and the condition has significantly hampered his self-esteem and social life. SMP gave this patient a frame to his face and the look of a shaved scalp. While it may be a subtle look to others, this was a life-changing event for him.



Case 3 is a 55-year-old male, Norwood V, who had the 1980’s plugs with a series of scalp reduction surgeries. His donor area was limited. He gave up on corrective surgeries as he had a hard time trusting hair transplant surgeons altogether. After 25 years of wearing a hair system, he wanted the freedom of a shaved scalp. SMP filled in the hypo-pigmented plug scars and redefined a new normal hairline. He is considering a limited FUE by removing some of the remaining plugs on the front of his scalp and spreading those hairs in the bald area to create stubble that he can feel and others can see.



Case 4 is a 32-year-old male, Norwood V, with thin-quality brown hair who wanted to wear his hair short and wanted more fullness to the front, top and crown areas of his scalp. His donor laxity was not good and his donor density was low. His goal was to cut his hair short and keep his budget under control. An FUE solution would

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



Submission Deadline:  
March 1, 2012  
[www.ishrs.org/  
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