

The Donor Site . . . A Renewed Interest

DONOR SITE CONSERVATION BECOMES MORE OF A CONCERN AS THE FIELD OF HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGERY MATURES. ASK AN EXPERIENCED HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGEON WHAT HE WOULD WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. HIS PROBABLE ANSWER: MORE DONOR HAIR! FACED WITH THE RELENTLESS ADVANCEMENT OF MALE PATTERN BALDNESS, PATIENTS WILL CONTINUE TO RETURN FOR MORE GRAFTS. WITHOUT PROPER PLANNING AND EFFICIENT USE OF THE DONOR AREA, THESE PATIENTS RUN OUT OF HAIR IN LATER YEARS. WITH THE INTRODUCTION—OR REDISCOVERY—OF MULTIPLE BLADED KNIVES, THE TOPIC TAKES ON EVEN MORE RELEVANCE. ALTHOUGH MANY ARE STILL UNDECIDED ABOUT THE KNIFE METHOD OF CUTTING DONOR HAIR, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE VALLIS¹/BRANDY²/BISACCIA³ DOUBLE- AND TRIPLE-BLADED KNIFE WILL HAVE ITS PLACE.

A Historical Perspective

Some points from a May, 1990 article in the *Journal of Dermatologic Surgery and Oncology*⁴ will summarize donor site harvesting and put it into perspective as we approach the knife method of harvesting in the donor area:

“*Preservation and care of the donor area is as important as designing and planning the recipient area. This is more apparent now, as the patients grafted 20 or 30 years ago are returning for additional grafts. Also, because of improved techniques and innovative designs, patients with more advanced stages of male pattern baldness are receiving hair transplants.*

In the author's opinion, conservation of the donor areas is best accomplished in two ways: (1) cutting grafts in a single row, keeping the rows at least 2.0 cm apart and (2) careful, delicate suturing of the donor area.

(Please see 'Donor Site,' page 2.)

¹Padgett Instruments, 3838 Warwick TFWY, Kansas City MO 64108

²Robbins Instruments, 2 North Passaic Avenue, P.O. Box 441, Chatham NJ 07928

³George Tiemann & Company, 84 Newtown Plaza, Plainview NY 11803

⁴Norwood, O.T.: Single Row Donor Site Harvesting. *J Dermatol Surg Oncol*, 16:5, May '90.

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The Insidious Progression Of Male Pattern Baldness

Never under-estimate the persistent advancement of male pattern baldness in later years. Johnny Carson is 65 years old, and he has three hairs in front. Watch reruns of 20 years ago, when he was 45 and had what appeared to be a full head of hair. I'm sure he was thinning at the time, but the progress from 45 to 65 has been severe.

Manny Marritt

Editorial Notes

In keeping with our new concept and format, the *Forum* is focusing each issue on a selected broad topic. This time we will look at the donor area, beginning with the evolution of graft harvesting and continuing through the new developments in the knife technique.

My experience with the knife method so far has been mixed. The main problem is maintaining proper angle and direction of the knife as it

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