

Sagittal vs Coronal Slits in the Coronal Corner

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The author has no financial interest in any of the products mentioned.

Hair almost always exits the skin obliquely in a uniform fashion. To obtain the most natural appearance and the best blending for grafted residual hair, the angle and directions of grafted hair should match the residual hair as closely as possible. Coronal slits give very precise and consistent control of hair angle and direction, much superior to sagittal slits.

With sagittal slits, the skin incisions lie parallel to the direction of hair flow. To change from sagittal to coronal slits simply rotate the blade 90° and angle the blade to match the existing hair angle. Although it is labeled coronal incisions, it is actually the direction of hair flow that determines the incisional plane. Because the incisional plane is always 90° to the directional of hair flow, perpendicular incisions may be a more accurate description (see Figure 1).

Advantages of Perpendicular Slits

1. Because it is the thin edge of the slit that is aligned with the residual hair, the slit actually sandwiches the grafts keeping the hair shaft in a consistent and exact angel.

2. With sagittal slits, acute angulation is difficult with small blades (1.2mm and smaller) and extremely difficult with larger blades (1.7–2.0mm). Whereas acute angulations (temporal hairline) are easy with perpendicular slits (see Photos A1 and A2).

3. In its natural state, hair in larger follicular units tends to grow side by side perpendicular to direction of hair flow. Grafted hair planted in perpendicular slits grows in a similar manner; this will give the grafted hair a fuller look when viewed from the front.



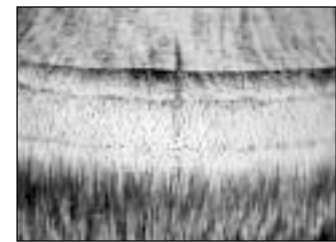
A2. Non-grafted side for comparison



A2. Grafted hair very acutely angles in temporal hairline



(A2 magnified)



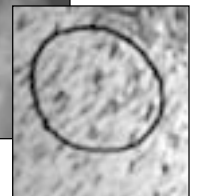
B. Donor area showing follicular units growing side by side perpendicular to the direction of hair flow



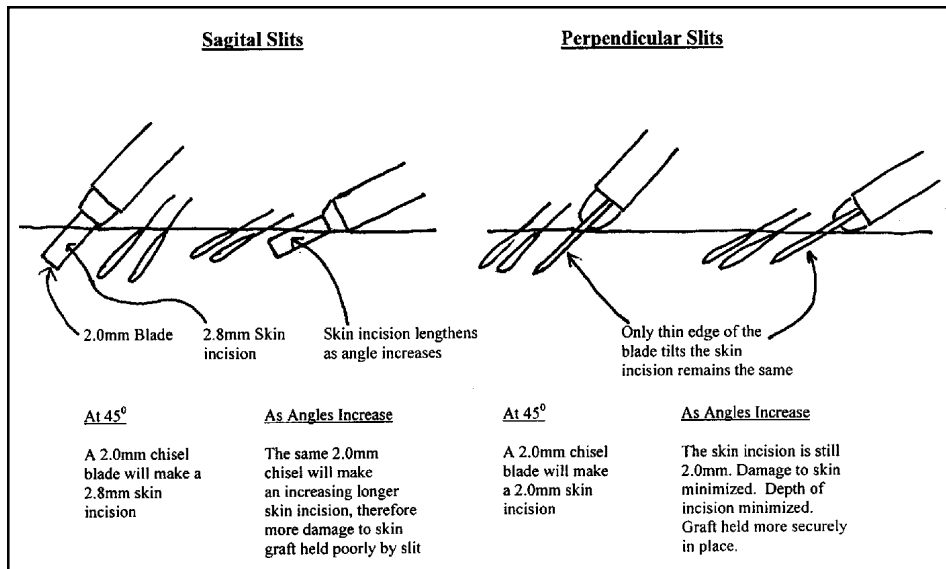
C. Grafted hair (larger FUs) lined up side by side perpendicular to the direction of hair flow



D. Grafted hair lined up side by side perpendicular to flow direction



4. Gives excellent directional and angle control in scar tissue.



Are Perpendicular Slits Safe?

Perpendicular slits are safe but care and attention need to be paid to the small details. After nine years of using this technique, I have found the following works best:

continued on page 38



Dear Colleague:

Plan to attend the 10th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery, October 10–13, 2002 in Chicago!

As in the past, this meeting will provide the most comprehensive overview of state-of-the-art innovations in hair transplantation. However, *new* programming will feature more workshops and opportunities for smaller sessions and more intimate learning. From the front office to the physicians, the committee has assembled a program offering comprehensive education for all! Best of all, leading innovators in the field will be your lecturers and moderators.

The ISHRS Annual Meeting is our unique opportunity to communicate new ideas and techniques in a one-on-one setting. Our discussion forum for open dialogue and rigorous debate is unique to our meeting, and it enhances our professional knowledge. Enhancing our skills in this way, and through our educational sessions, helps to advance the quality of our field. The Call for Abstracts was distributed in January to all ISHRS members, and I hope everyone submitted their clinical and basic research trials, posters, and innovations for review by the Annual Scientific Meeting Committee.

Once again, the Board has chosen an ideal location for our meeting: Chicago, Illinois. Not only highly accessible for all our U.S. and International members, Chicago offers unsurpassed beauty in a lakefront setting, and a variety of cultural opportunities. Once more, the headquarters hotel is located in one of the most famed shopping districts in all of the United States, the Magnificent Mile. We invite you to enjoy our meeting, and also to enjoy all that Chicago has to offer with your family and/or your office staff.

ISHRS members who wish to share ideas and suggestions can reach me at jjcole@forhair.com. Together, we can make the 10th anniversary of the ISHRS and the Annual Meeting a truly remarkable experience!

Sincerely,

John P. Cole, MD

Chair, 2002 Annual Scientific Meeting Committee



Photo from Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

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continued from page 37

- Use square chisel blades held in handles with adjustable depth—this creates ideal recipient sites.
- A blade cutter from www.cuttingedge_surgical.ca. This machine allows you to cut thousands of square chisel blades from Persona surgical prep blades and allows you to have an unlimited source of custom size blades.
- For single hair FUs, use 0.09mm to 1.1mm blades (#19G needle = 1.2mm, #18G needle = 1.32mm).
- For two and three hair FUs, use 1.2mm to 1.4mm blades.
- For larger FUs use, 1.5mm to 1.7mm.
- Any blade larger than 1.8mm must be used with caution and is not recommended.
- Ellis has a mini blade handle that works well.
- Tumesce the recipient site before making the incision.
- Always adjust the blade depth to fit the height of the grafts. Too deep you will damage the underlying vessels, too shallow and popping will occur.
- The blades are very sharp so only a light touch is required.

This technique is more challenging and requires more concentration in that we must always be paying close attention to hair direction angles as we make our slits. The end result is an almost perfect blending of grafted to existing hair. ♦