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Trichophytic closure of both wound edges after strip excision for hair transplantation

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Introduction

Trichophytic closures have become the standard method of minimizing the visibility of scarring at the donor site. The main methods were previously described by Drs. Patrick Frechet and Paul Rose (de-epithelialization technique of the lower or inferior wound edge) and Dr. Mario Marzola (de-epithelialization technique of the upper or superior wound edge).¹⁻³ However, a detailed review of trichophytic closure with de-epithelialization of both wound edges has not yet been reported.⁴ Since we recognized that the trichophytic closure after de-epithelializing both wound edges more effectively achieves undetectable scarring at the donor site, we started to verify this effect in order to improve on the traditional one-sided trichophytic closure technique.

Donor Scar Classification. The donor wound after trichophytic closure generally develops a scattered scar instead of a linear scar. In order to evaluate the scar appearance we devised a detailed classification of six types and a more cursory evaluation of three types so that outcomes could be distinguished more objectively.

The donor scar was estimated by the following detailed criteria (Figure 1):

1. **Type S** (very good): The donor wound could not be distinguished from the surrounding scalp at all.
2. **Type A-1** (good): The wound showed a nearly invisible scar. The FU density in the scar was almost the same as that of the surrounding scalp, but a skin/scar color contrast was relatively distinguishable.
3. **Type A-2** (good): The donor wound showed a nearly invisible scar, but the FU density in the scar was thinner than the surrounding normal FU density.
4. **Type B** (fair): The donor wound was not clearly scarred, but there were areas of spot-like scars and short linear scars.
5. **Type C** (bad): The donor wound mainly formed a linear scar (width: less than or equal to 1mm).
6. **Type D** (very bad): The donor wound clearly showed a linear scar along the full length (width: greater than 1mm).

These six types were then roughly divided into the assessment of three types based on cursory appearance:

1. **Invisible Scar:** This type was defined as those that scored from Type S to Type A. This type indicates that the donor scar would not be noticed even if others looked at it directly and the patient does not worry about it at all.
2. **Undetectable Scar:** This type was defined as difficult to discover the donor site and ranged from Type S to Type B.
3. **Visible Scar:** This type was defined as Type C and Type D. This is an unacceptable scar that consists of mainly linear scars.

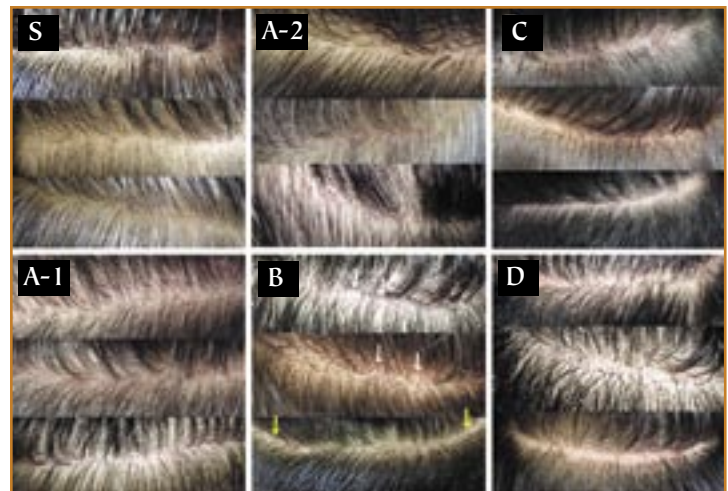


Figure 1. Donor Scar Classification: Six types were classified based on the donor wound healing: Type S; Type A-1; Type A-2; Type B (the white arrows show spot-like scars and the yellow arrows show short linear scars); Type C; and Type D.

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