

HAIR TRANSPLANT FORUM

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Experts the World Over Still Differ: Large vs Small Grafts, Slits vs Holes

by Dr. Manfred Lucas

German Surgeon Favors Small Grafts, Holes



LOT HAS CHANGED in the hair transplantation business in the past years. Consequently, the three-year intervals between the World Congresses on Hair Replacement seem a bit long. I would like to thank our colleague, Dr. Norwood, for the effort he has put into organizing this FORUM. It serves as a good bridge for the time gap, and I welcome the idea of exchanging our views and experience.

I would like to focus my personal philosophy and objectives in hair transplantation on the following three points:

- AS FINE as possible
- AS MANY as possible
- AS FAST as possible

As Fine as Possible

Any kind of hair transplantation—even such accompanying measures as the reduction and expansion methods—ultimately consists of nothing more than redistributing a part of the patient's hair that will continue to grow for the rest of his life. One of my patients recently hit the proverbial nail on the head when he said, "What you're dealing with here is a scarce commodity." To redistribute this scarce commodity aesthetically and in such a manner that the patient will be satisfied for the rest of his life, there is for me only one way: the exclusive use of mini- and micrografts.*

I fully abandoned the strategy of achieving density with standard grafts and refinement with minigrafts and micrografts in 1986. The pursuit of the fine hairline is not important; what is important is the pursuit of the fine, undetectable hair transplantation.

(Please see page 2.)

*Dr. Lucas uses the term micrograft to refer to grafts containing two hairs, while those containing three or more hairs he calls minigrafts.



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Dr. Lucas is the founder and director of the Meditra Institute for Plastic Surgery in Munich, Germany, which focuses upon hair transplantation. After completing his medical studies and internship, Dr. Lucas worked for six years in the department of cardiosurgery in the University of Munich under the direction of Professor Zenker. During that time he published a number of works on cardio-surgery and independently performed open-heart operations.

In 1969 he was on the team that performed Germany's first two heart transplantations. He became assistant medical director for general and accident surgery, before his diverse interests led him to hair transplantation.