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Intra-patient graft length differences influencing depth controlled incisions

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Introduction

Improper depth controlled graft placement can occasionally result in problems such as pitting, tenting, folliculitis, and cysts, no matter how carefully one tries to make proper depth incisions (Figure 1).¹⁻⁵ The graft lengths will differ from person to person; however, we do not have enough clinical information at this time about the effects that may occur from having different graft lengths in the same individual.

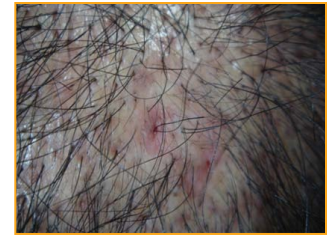


Figure 1. Pitting and folliculitis in the recipient area.

Objective

The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether there is a significant difference in the length of the grafts in the same individual.

Method

After graft preparation, using standard 0.5mm rulers and magnifiers, 100 grafts each of 1-, 2-, and 3-hair follicular units (FUs) were taken randomly from 119 Korean male pattern hair loss (MPHL) patients and 24 Caucasian MPHL patients, and their lengths were measured (Figure 2).

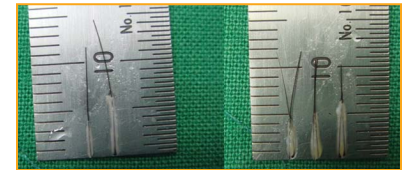


Figure 2. Graft length measurement on the ruler: (left) 1-hair FUs; (right) 2-hair FUs.

Results

The average length and standard deviation among the Korean patients was 4.47 ± 0.42 mm with 1-hair FUs, 4.81 ± 0.33 mm with 2-hair FUs, and 4.93 ± 0.29 mm with 3-hair FUs. The difference between the longest and shortest graft in the same individual was calculated and the mean difference \pm standard deviation was 1.47 ± 0.48 mm with 1-hair FUs, 1.25 ± 0.5 mm with 2-hair FUs, and 0.98 ± 0.47 mm with 3-hair FUs. The percentage of the difference between the longest and shortest graft is documented in Tables 1 and 2. In summary, the majority of Korean patients showed a difference of 1-1.5mm with the 1-hair FUs. However, 18.5% of patients showed a difference of 2mm, 4.2% showed a difference of 2.5mm, and 1.7% showed a difference of 3mm.

This study showed that there is a significant difference in the length of grafts in the same individual for both Asian and Caucasian patients.

FU	0.5mm	1.0mm	1.5mm	2.0mm	2.5mm	3mm	Total
1-hair	2 (1.7%)	42 (35.3%)	46 (38.6%)	22 (18.5%)	5 (4.2%)	2 (1.7%)	119 (100%)
2-hair	12 (10.1%)	57 (47.9%)	36 (30.3%)	10 (8.4%)	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	119 (100%)
3-hair	43 (36.1%)	43 (36.1%)	26 (21.9%)	7 (5.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	119 (100%)

Table 1. The intra-patient length difference between the longest and shortest grafts in 119 MPHL Korean patients

FU	0.5mm	1.0mm	1.5mm	2.0mm	2.5mm	3mm	Total
1-hair	5 (4.2%)	12 (50.0%)	4 (16.76%)	1 (4.2%)	2 (8.3%)	0 (0%)	24 (100%)
2-hair	5 (20.8%)	9 (37.5%)	8 (33.3%)	2 (8.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	24 (100%)
3-hair	9 (37.5%)	11 (45.8%)	4 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	24 (100%)

Table 2. The intra-patient length difference between the longest and shortest grafts in 24 MPHL Caucasian patients

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