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Review of the 2021 ISHRS World Congress



Curly Hair FUE: My Approach Using Classification of Follicle Curvature and Curl

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ABSTRACT

Specific knowledge of curved hair structures is necessary to be able to perform a successful surgery in this specific group of patients. In this article, we present a brief description of the cosmetic categories of curly shaped hairs and we establish a connection with the internal structure of this specific kind of hair. We introduce a classification based on seven predominant types, and we specify based on punch tip type, punch diameter, punch insertion angle, punch insertion depth, and punch centering, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of ethnic skin.

In my experience the Hybrid punch is the most adequate instrument to perform this surgery in a step-by-step approach. Because of the great variety of shapes and textures possible in a single patient, slow pace, testing, and constant adjustment is the key to completing a successful hair transplant procedure.

Keywords: curly hairs, follicular unit excision (FUE), hair transplant, Reyes Classification of Follicle Curvature and Curl

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Some patients of African descent tend to have a spiral or helical hair structure that is clinically referred to as tightly coiled. Others have the appearance of very curly hair, but when the grafts are extracted, we observe that the follicle structure is not so curved underneath the skin. There are a variety of curvatures, confirming that the internal curvature is typically an extension of what we observe externally. Recognizing that there are several varieties of curl, we cannot always apply the label Afro-textured hair. It's better to understand the specific curl characteristics of each case to tailor our approach during follicular unit excision (FUE) surgery.

In some patients with curly hair, FUE is easily performed by an experienced team using any type of punch; however, some types of curly hair can pose a significant challenge even for the most skilled surgeon. It is important to redefine the terms Afro-type or curly or curly kinky hair, so we can understand how some patients with extremely curly hair may show slight internal curvatures while others will pose a great challenge to the surgeon due to very tight follicle curves, curling, and growing parallel to the scalp.

TYPES OF HAIR CURL

Curl of the hair is where there is a curve in one direction and then curve in the opposite direction. The tufts of hair are intertwined, providing more volume. It is often thought that curly hair is intrinsically thicker, and the curlier it is, the greater the three-dimensional space it occupies. Hair curls can be classified into five distinct types (Figure 1).¹ This paper is dedicated to types 3, 4, and 5 as they are most frequently seen in the author's region because of the genetic typing that is more Afro than Caucasian.

Type 1 (Figure 1, 1) is a hair that takes 2-3 inches to form a curl; it looks like straight hair if shorter than 2 inches, hence the need to carefully examine it to not confuse it with Caucasian straight hairs.

Type 2 is a hair that needs 1-2 inches to form a curl, and I would characterize this type of hair as wavy. Figure 1 2A and 2B show the different kinds of wavy my practice frequently identifies.

Type 3 is shown in Figure 1, 3. This hair curl has a spiral pattern creating a "gentle capital E shape." This curl starts to form after 0.5-1 inches. This is the type of hair curl that most people have in mind



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