

William Rassman, M.D.

(Los Angeles, CA)

William D. Rassman has a varied and interesting background. Early in his career he took a Cardiovascular Fellowship with the famous heart surgeon Dr. C. W. Lillehei. He stayed in cardiology in the 60's and helped develop the *Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump* in 1969. This device is now found in all modern Intensive Care Units. Dr. Rassman is still active in cardiology research.

He got his Boards in surgery in 1976 and practiced that until 1983, when he entered the medical computer field. He formed a computer software company, invented

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Gearing Up for Two Thousand Grafts Per Session and Dense Packing

by *O'Tar T. Norwood, M.D.*
(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Because of my interest in megasession and dense packing of grafts on the hairline, I spent a day, with two of my assistants, in Bill Rassman's office in Los Angeles. He did two patients, one with 2100+ grafts and one with over 1000 grafts. In addition, I saw about six or seven additional patients in various stages of completion. Some were scheduled; some came in unexpectedly.

I was surprised at the amount of coverage Dr. Rassman was able to get with the use of micrografts alone on some patients. With the use of all micrografts, you can get away with lower hairlines, a larger variety of hairlines and you can cover larger areas. You can also be more adventuresome in overall design because the micrografts cover more area and tend to look more natural. This allows for transplanting the vertex in patients with limited donor hair (i.e. Norwood types V, VI, and VII's). The trade-off of course is less density. This must be clearly understood by the patient because some patients are not going to be happy with the coverage afforded by micrografts alone, especially the young ones.



Fig. 1. Hairline drawn in. Note how far down into temple area the hair is transplanted.

Technical Problems

When you do over two thousand grafts per session, the problems increase.

1. Keeping up with the number of grafts.
2. Quality control.
3. Technicians in training must be watched very closely. You must avoid allowing the grafts to dry and they must avoid wasting hair. It

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