

HAIR TRANSPLANTS MAKE MEN LOOK OBJECTIVELY BETTER

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File this under the category, “They needed a study to confirm this?” Apparently, researchers learned that people think men with a full head of hair look younger and more attractive than bald men.

Not only that, but the study, published in *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*, found that observers thought the faces of men who had hair transplant surgery appeared more successful and approachable, compared to photos showing them before their transplants.



IT'S SCIENCE

“Men were perceived as being younger and more attractive by casual observers after undergoing [a] hair transplant,” the researchers wrote. “Participants also rated post-transplant faces as appearing more successful and approachable relative to their pre-transplant counterparts. These aspects have been shown to play a substantial role in both workplace and social success...”

So, there's some scientific backing to the (common sense) notion that men with a thicker head of hair benefit both socially and professionally. That's great news for hair restoration surgeons like Dr. Richard Chaffoo, who performs hair transplant surgery in the San Diego area. Advances in hair restoration surgery techniques produce natural-looking results for men who are uncomfortable with going bald.

HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGERY HAS REALLY IMPROVED

Misconceptions persist about hair transplant surgery and how it's performed. None of these is part of the process:

- Shaving the hair from one part of your head and gluing it back over the balding area
- Taking another person's hair and attaching it to your scalp
- Removing hair from another part of your body and reattaching it to your head

And it does not involve “hair plugs” anymore, either. That outdated technique created results that looked a bit like the scalp of a doll's head, and left horror stories in the minds of bald men the world over.

Today, there are really 2 primary techniques used by the vast majority of surgeons who perform hair restoration procedures. One is called follicular unit transplantation (FUT) — or the “strip” technique, because it involves removing a small strip of a patient's scalp from the back of the head and transplanting the hair follicles to the balding area.

The other method is called follicular unit extraction (FUE), which can be performed either manually or using the *NeoGraft*® automated device. The manual method is effective, but tedious, and many surgeons consider NeoGraft to be a significant advance in hair restoration surgery.

The automated NeoGraft device creates micro-grafts by extracting tiny follicular units (typically between 1 to 4 follicles). The graft is then deposited in a sterile container, where it is kept moist until all the grafts have been extracted from the donor sites at the back of the head. The grafts are then carefully transplanted to the balding area, where the hair grows in normal cycles. The procedure works in part because hair from the back of the head is genetically programmed to continue growing.

The primary advantage of FUE: There's no scar. Because the procedure only extracts 1 to 4 hair follicles at a time, it's easy for the surgeon to disguise your donor sites.

KNOW THY SURGEON

Even though NeoGraft produces good results, a word of caution: Check your surgeon's credentials. Because it is automated, many more surgeons with little experience performing hair restoration surgery are now offering the procedure. There is no official board that certifies hair transplant surgeons, so patients should be especially diligent in researching the experience and qualifications of the physician offering the NeoGraft procedure.