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HAIR TRANSPLANT FOR FEMALE ALOPECIA WITH LOW DONOR AREA DENSITY

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1- BACKGROUND:

The various micrografts techniques allow an esthetic and definitive achievement of most of wide female androgenetic alopecia (FAGA) with low donor area density.

Follicular unit grafts (1-4 hair) techniques are so far being proposed, namely Follicular Units Extraction (FUE), Follicular Unit Long Hair (FUL) or Follicular Unit Transplant (FUT).

2- MATERIALS AND METHODS:

In FAGA, hair thinning appears to follow and evolve according to a particular pattern for advanced stages of baldness. The **multifactorial classification** and the **Trichoscan[®]** allow a precise evaluation of various parameters.

The surgical restoration of FAGA consists on transplanting an adequate number of hairs (1000 to 2000 hair/session) according to the decreased hair density of the donor area.

Three techniques are currently available:

- **The follicular Unit extraction (FUE):** the scalp is previously shaved. Hairs are harvested with 0.9 mm punches. FUE has few indications for female baldness due to the decreased density of the donor area. Almost 1000 hairs might be transplanted in one session.

- **The follicular unit long Hair (FUL):** the scalp is not previously shaved. Long hairs are harvested with a strip followed by an undetectable linear scar. The transplantation of 1-4 long hair graft aims at restoring a natural aspect. In that way the patient have with this technique an immediate preview of the result and the scabs are masked by long hair. Each graft is easily selected according to the size of the follicular unit and the hair caliber and color. Almost 1500 to 2000 hairs are transplanted in one session.

- **The follicular unit transplant (FUT) :** the scalp is previously shaved. The technique is similar to FUL described above.

3- RESULTS:

The best choice upon each procedure will be developed according to the age (young or old patient), to the ethnic variations (Afro-Americans, Asians...), to the prospective evaluation of the baldness evolution and above all with the adequation between the donor area capacity and the immediate and future wideness of the baldness.

For nearly 90% of wide female alopecia with low donor area density we prefer to select the indication of FUL long hair graft.