

Conference information ISHRS meeting Kuala Lumpur 9-11 October 2014

Dr Venkataram attended ISHRS meeting on hair restoration at Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 11 November 2014. He also attended the meeting as global council member representing India.

Recent news

Do all hairs grow after grafting?

This is a question asked by patients all the time. While in most people, most grafts grow, it is true that in some patients growth is either delayed or seems a little less. This issue was discussed in the latest ISHRS meeting, and the general consensus was that while this is rare, it can happen, and individual factors of healing were probably important.

FUE vs. FUT

This debate continues and in the recent conference a doctor, who practiced FUE, underwent FUE, and found he was not happy and initiated a debate.

The reasons are:

1. FUE grafts are less protected and covered by fat and dermis; fat contains stem cells and this may be important in growth irrespective of transaction. On the contrary, FUT grafts have fat which have stem cells which may contribute to hair growth which are absent in FUE grafts
2. FUE can also produce hidden transaction of neighboring follicles which is not accounted. This may be because of lateral pressure, sharing force of dull punch, splaying of neighboring units.
3. Larger punches are needed for larger units and widely separated hairs leading to larger scars.
4. FUE damage area is a sum of FUE circle area + FUE punch circumference- when calculated for 2000 punches this amounts to a large scar area. Hence scar is not as less as it is believed to be
5. Transaction should include Hidden grafts around 2%+completely transected grafts 3% + partially transaction rate 5%+ transaction of neighboring grafts 2%+ possible poor growth due to lack of fat damage to stem cells. Hence total transaction may be 10 to 20% even when visible transaction rate is less than 5%.
6. If too much FUE is done, it will go in to non safe area of scalp.
7. If FUE is done first, patient is committed to do FUE every time in future or FUE from other areas such as beard and body which are higher in cost

So the final consensus was that patient should be given facts of both FUT and FUE and then left to make his decision. There should be no selective promotion of FUE. We in Venkat Charmalaya agree with this. (Please refer to table of comparison under new methods of HT in this website)

Robotics:

Robotics are making advance- there are nearly 45 machines in USA. However their cost is very high- about 8 dollars per graft, which amounts to Rs 500 Rs per graft. **A 1000 graft session would cost 5 lakhs and 2000 graft session would cost Rs 10 L!! Not suitable for India at the movement**

Cloning: Patients keep asking about this too. However, not a single paper was presented on this topic suggesting that no progress has occurred in this field.

Laser comb: There have been many advertisements on this, with some companies charging up to 1.5 lakhs for treatment. There was a detailed analysis of the evidence for this treatment and **the conclusion was that proper evidence was lacking**. The companies which flaunt FDA approval for this treatment. It is important to note that this FDA clearance is 510 clearance meaning it is only for clearance for safety and not for efficacy.

Platelet rich plasma: This was discussed at great length. The opinion was that while this promising treatment, more evidence is needed to standardize the preparation dosage, frequency etc,

Safety of Finasteride: Finasteride continues to be safe in contrast to several forums discussing it on the internet and patients should be given proper facts and encouraged to take it.