

Hair systems and weaves

The hairpiece has come a long way since its inception and today, many go unnoticed. They can be secured using tape, glue or hooks, or can be woven in with existing hair to add volume and cover areas which are thinning. Hairpieces give the most natural appearance when their color and texture exactly match the sideburns and fringe hair. Hairpieces require regular maintenance and should usually be replaced every 18 to 36 months; they can also be quite costly.

Conclusion

Finding the right treatment option for hair loss is best done with the advice of a trained health professional. A physician will first attempt to identify the cause of hair loss in a patient and recommend a solution most likely to succeed. The choice of a hair loss treatment greatly depends on the severity of the condition, and a physician can provide the best advice on which treatment option is best suited to an individual condition.



Telephone: 1-888-HAIR-077

TREATMENT OPTIONS
FOR HAIR LOSS DUE TO
ANDROGENETIC ALOPECIA



Hair loss

is often a distressing experience for both men and women. It is therefore not surprising that treatment solutions for hair loss have been sought after for centuries.

In Pharaonic times, the Egyptians treated hair loss using a mixture of dogs' paws, donkeys' hooves, dates and oil. Not so long ago, American folklore held that bald farmers could regain lost hair by having cattle lick their heads.

Today, numerous companies and products claim to have the "miracle" solution for hair growth. However, despite recent medical advances, credible and scientifically tested products do not abound.

A number of effective hair loss treatment options for men and women do exist and are commonly used by physicians. Proper diagnosis of underlying causes of hair loss is essential to best determine the most effective treatment option. If you are concerned about or experiencing hair loss, the best advice is to consult a physician.

Review of some treatment options

Although there are many products and therapies available on the market today, only a few of them have undergone rigorous scientific investigation and clinical testing. The following methods and treatments have been scientifically scrutinized to prove their efficacy.

Minoxidil 2% and 5%

Minoxidil (Rogaine®) was first introduced as an antihypertensive drug. Clinical studies have shown that the application of minoxidil to the scalp twice a day can have a positive effect on hair growth. Minoxidil is available in a 2% solution for men and women. The 5% solution is available for men in the United States. There are some slight possible side effects which, in some cases,

may cause itchiness and redness of the scalp. While not everyone will respond to minoxidil, those who do respond require treatment application for life to maintain efficacy.

Studies show that hair counts increase with the 2% solution and even more with 5% solution. Studies also show a 45% increase in hair weight when using the 5% solution compared to the 2%. In those who respond to minoxidil, regrowth can occur as early as two months following the first application.

Men who respond to treatment can expect their hair loss condition to stabilize within a year. Between 5% to 10% can also expect significant regrowth that is cosmetically acceptable.

Minoxidil is the treatment of choice for women. Approximately 50% of women will have their hair loss condition stabilize and show minimal to moderate regrowth.

Finasteride for men only

Finasteride (Propecia®) is the most recent medical development in the treatment of male pattern hair loss and is the only medication available as a prescription tablet taken once daily. Finasteride *can be prescribed only for men*; it cannot be prescribed for women. Clinical studies show that it is well tolerated, stops hair loss in 83% of cases and stimulates visible regrowth in 66% of men.

Finasteride acts by inhibiting DHT (dihydrotestosterone), a hormone related to the development of hair loss in men. In those who respond to finasteride, continued use of the product is necessary to sustain benefits. As is the case with minoxidil, halting medication will continue the hair loss process.

The rate of success of minoxidil and finasteride depends on the extent of the condition. The chances of success increase with the amount of hair a person already has. Those who have already lost large amounts of hair will likely not benefit as much from treatment as those who have lost small amounts.

Hair transplants

For many men and some women who suffer from permanent hair loss, transplants can be a viable option. Hair transplants are one of the main surgical approaches used to deal with hair loss. The procedure involves taking hair from an area of the scalp which is unlikely to go bare and transplanting the hair to thinning or bald areas. The rationale behind this option is that the transplanted hair will continue to grow as if it were in its original location.

Hair transplantation is a permanent solution to hair loss but the effects are not instantaneous. A few procedures may be necessary before obtaining the desired effect. Hair transplants involve surgery and, although done under local anesthesia, may involve some pain and discomfort. Not everyone is an ideal candidate for hair transplants. In recent years, hair transplantation techniques have evolved and are recognized to provide a more cosmetically appealing appearance than before. Consult your physician to determine if this is the right treatment procedure for you.

Scalp reduction

Scalp reduction is a surgical procedure where an area of the bald scalp is removed and the hair-bearing scalp rejoined together. In effect, this procedure reduces the area of hairless scalp that is exposed.