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Dr. Ivan Cohen, of the Center for Hair Transplantation in Fairfield, is the first physician in Connecticut and one of only 15 in the country to use the newest robotic equipment that has turned hair transplant procedure into a minimally invasive surgical procedure.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE

surgical procedure now available for hair transplants

By Bonnie Adler

A FULL HEAD OF HAIR. For most men, like youth, it's heartbreakingly transient. You can try to distract from the receding hairline or the emerging bald spot by getting the right haircut, or choosing a fabulous pair of eyeglasses or working out so your six pack can grab the spotlight. But sooner or later, for most men, the undeniable statistics become a commentary on your present or your future. Twenty percent of men in their twenties suffer from male pattern baldness, 30 percent of men in their

30's, 40 percent of men in their forties, and fully half of men in their fifties.

Hair transplants are a viable option for those who refuse to accept encroaching baldness, and millions of men have availed themselves of the procedure since it became available in the 1950's. As with most medical procedures, the key is to go to a qualified, experienced doctor to get the best available treatment. No one wants "corn rows" in the front of his head, announcing loudly that he has had a transplant, and a bad one at that. The best hair transplants are the ones no one can be sure of – a variation, if you will, on the old ad "only his hairdress-

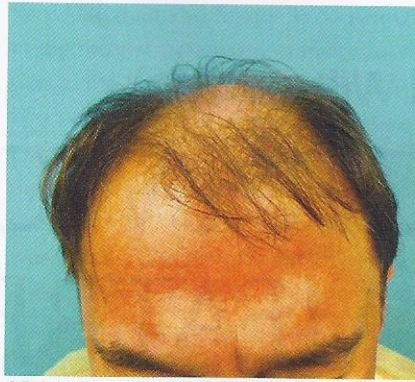
er knows for sure."

Hair transplantation has just gotten a huge technological boost, according to Dr. Ivan Cohen, of the Center for Hair Transplantation in Fairfield. Dr. Cohen is Board Certified by the American Board of Dermatology and the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery and lectures on hair transplantation and hair loss at the Yale University School of Medicine where he is an Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology. Nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in the field, Dr. Cohen has been profiled in major stories in the New York Times and featured on many tele-

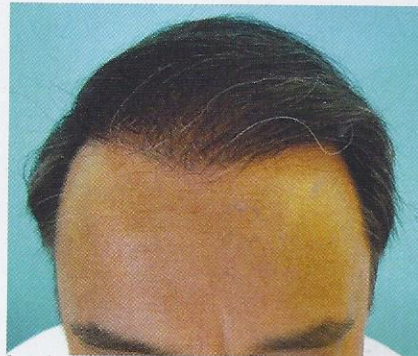
vision spots discussing hair transplant surgery. He is also the first physician in Connecticut, and one of only 15 in the country, to use the newest robotic equipment that has turned the hair transplant procedure into a minimally invasive surgical procedure at last.

According to Dr. Cohen, the gold standard method of hair transplantation was to make a long surgical incision at the back of the head in the donor area known as "the fringe," where hair is genetically programmed to grow forever, removing a half inch wide strip of skin with healthy hair follicles. The surgeon and five surgical assistants then painstakingly separate clusters of hair under a microscope into follicular units and transplants those grafts to thinning areas on the head. This method is a cost effective way of obtaining a large quantity of high quality grafts in the shortest amount of operating time, consistently producing naturally appearing results.

The new, minimally invasive technique, performed by robotic equipment, makes hundreds, or even thousands, of pinpoint incisions in the donor area extracting individual fol-



ABOVE: A view of a patient before.
BELOW: A view of the same patient after the procedure.



licular units far more efficiently than any surgeon could, culling follicular units that make perfect grafts for transplantation without any sutures or subsequent scarring.

Said Dr. Cohen, "Advanced digital technology can accurately and efficiently obtain excellent grafts.

There is no waste of hair or roots and no scarring. This procedure appeals to people who have been reluctant to go the surgical route."

The robotic procedure takes a bit longer than surgical removal of a strip of hair because the hair follicles are extracted individually before they are transplanted. A traditional procedure takes about four

hours and the new method takes

about six. In both cases, patients receive local anesthesia and plenty of breaks, spending much of the day with Dr. Cohen and the staff, enjoying a comfortable atmosphere inasmuch as is possible given the nature of the procedure.

Recovery time is where the robotic technique really represents a game changer. "Most patients have little to no post-operative pain. When I call them at home the night of the procedure, most of my patients tell me they have not even needed the pain medicine I prescribe. They can go to work the next day with no stitches and no scars. They have tiny red dots where the follicles were removed at the back of the head, which they can cover with a baseball cap, and in a week, that redness is gone."

Until now, most patients have had to recover a bit more slowly, because the incision at the back of the head requires time to heal, and stitches cannot be removed for a week.

Dr. Cohen says the robotic procedure is most appealing to younger men with very short hair, and people who have been reluctant to undergo a hair transplant because they were reluctant to have a surgical procedure. "The shorter recovery time, reduced pain and elimination of scarring at a suture line appeals to them."

People who are interested in a possible procedure are encouraged to call for a consultation. Many men are very satisfied with the results of one procedure, while others like to fill in their hairlines several times, over time and if further hair loss occurs. "Patients with limited areas of thinning, such as receding hairlines, require fewer transplants than those with extensive baldness," said Dr. Cohen. The cost of hair transplantation is generally not much more expensive in the long run than hairpieces that have to be replaced. Once transplanted, the hair is permanent.

To inquire further or to schedule a consultation, Dr. Cohen can be reached at 203 259-7709 or via www.DrCohen.com.

