

Focus on Hair

For as long as anyone can remember, full hair has been a symbol of beauty and health. It's therefore understandable that many people are prepared to make every effort imaginable and to spare no expense, in order to at least partially restore their former head of hair. Within the cosmetic-aesthetic area of surgery, hair surgery is a specialist sector with ever increasing importance; it demands a great amount of sensitivity, many years of experience and an immense ability in visualisation. Dr. med. Bijan Feriduni, who practices in the Aesthetic Clinics in both Frankfurt/Germany and Maastricht/Netherlands, explains why the above qualities are of utmost importance.

Photos: Aesthetic Clinics



It's predominantly men who seek help from this renowned specialist, hoping that he can magic a full head of hair – and he can do just that. Also women who've had to come to terms with badly healed scar tissue and bald patches after for example operations on brain tumours, frequently decide on transplantations in the Aesthetic Clin-

ics. The Iranian hair surgeon is particularly interested however in helping accident and burn victims, as well as cancer patients, who often suffer with a permanently damaged scalp, as a result of frequent radiation therapy. It is his personal goal to operate on a particularly "difficult case" every month, that is to operate on somebody who would be unable to afford to pay for such a transplantation out of their own pocket. "I feel I have a large social responsibility to also treat people, who for example have suffered burns as a child or who come from war zones," is his short answer to our question as to his motives.

30 per cent of his work however consists of corrective operations. They are a particularly hard challenge for the doctor, who was already fascinated with this difficult specialist area during his surgical training. "The de-

*Amongst colleagues, he is recognised as one of the best European hair surgeons:
Dr. med. Bijan Feriduni*

cidating factor with transplantations is to copy nature, which means keeping the transplants as small as possible. Unfortunately, a method still frequently used today, is one in which a whole island of up to 10 hairs is replanted." The sad result can be seen on photographs: It looks as if a wig hasn't been completely finished.

THE DECIDING FACTOR IS THE TRANSPLANTATION TECHNIQUE AND THE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

When corrective operations are undertaken, the islands are first cut out or undergo laser treatment, because for each transplant Dr. Feriduni principally



only uses one hair near the hairline and maximal 3 hairs at the back of the head.

But what's the sequence of a "normal" transplantation? The basic requirement in order to realise a transplantation, is the existence of remaining real hair. Depending on how much is needed, a strip of skin of about 25 cm in length and maximal 12 mm in width is taken from the ring of hair. Whilst the surgeon seals the open area with a special hair seam, which is later invisible, a whole team of between 4 and 7 assistants begin to prepare 0,6 mm single transplants on the extracted strip of hair.

This can be up to 3.800 parts (pictures below) – an almost unimaginable number, when one takes into account that the surgeon has to prepare the

same amount of fine hair canals on the scalp, before he can insert the transplants. This explains why treatment can take up to 8 hours.

A WHOLE TEAM AND A WHOLE DAY FOR ONE SINGLE PATIENT.

"The ability to work as a team is a factor not to be underestimated when utilising this method of hair transplantation. The doctor cannot achieve much alone", explains Dr. Feriduni, who worked in private clinics in both Germany and Belgium until 3 years ago, when he became the head of the department of hair surgery at the Aesthetic Clinics; he now travels regularly between Frankfurt and Maastricht to perform his operations. What the hair surgeon actually does alone, is however of the utmost importance: The hair's

future natural fall is determined by the angle at which the transplantation canal is inserted, it dictates the direction of hair growth. To what extent the result of the operation is satisfactory for the patient not only depends on the number of implanted hairs, but also to a large degree on the optical visualisation capabilities of the surgeon.

The complete treatment is experienced relaxed and without pain, whilst the patient is under local anaesthetic.

The patient can watch television, he is served with breakfast when there's a break, and is also able to stretch his legs outside the operating theatre. And he can look forward to his hair having grown again in a few months, which will remain permanently – sometimes for a lifetime. (A.H.) □

Hair division carried out to perfection: The team of assistants preparing the transplantation material

