

“And now, back to the main game”

In our last issue we revisited the alopecia reduction procedure that had not been enjoying widespread popularity in the past two to three years. In this edition, we are back with mini and micro-grafts to review the major changes that are taking place with this technique.

While the surgeons have been agonizing over better ways of shrinking bald areas and minimizing scars, the micro-grafters have been buying microscopes. Bob Limmer told us how to do it in 1993 (see Forum Vol.3, No.3) but it all seemed too hard and too much trouble at the time. He wrote it up in Stough and Haber's book last year and has slowly been gaining converts worldwide.

Always looking for a “better mousetrap,” hair transplant perfectionist David Seager from Canada has been to visit Bob in San Antonio, Texas. David, too, is a convert to microscopic dissec-

tion and tells us why in this issue.

If you are still not convinced that the future lies with meticulously dissected pilosebaceous units, the Mosers may provide you with a middle ground. In an update on their pioneering megasession paper of four years ago, the Moser Group shows what wonderfully natural results can be achieved with carefully prepared, small minigrafts without microscopes. (It remains to be seen if they become converts to this new technology in the year ahead.)

There is probably not a lot of difference in results to the observer but there is certainly twice the workload in microscopically dissecting the pilosebaceous units. David Seager says that the main advantage is that there is less follicular wastage when using the microscopes and this will be an important factor if the bald area is large and the donor follicles in short supply.

Finally, and just before you switch to techniques involving more intensive preparation and handling of your grafts, there comes a timely warning from Joe Greco. He shows us in a pilot study that careless handling is more hazardous to the health of small grafts than to

larger grafts. The implication of this is that it is not just a matter of buying a bunch of microscopes and throwing more surgical assistants at the problem but that they are going to have to be trained to use a very light touch. It may be that the Choi Implanter or some other implantation device will at last find a place in mainstream hair transplantation.

— Editor

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Dissection microscopes



Microscopes in use