

# Megasections Dense Packing

## MEGASESSIONS AND DENSE PACKING MAY BE COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE

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Dr. Schiell's article on megasections and dense packing in the November/December issue of the Forum was excellent. I could not agree more that caution must be exercised lest too many grafts be planted too close together at one time.

Sessions in my own practice have, as with most other surgeons, been getting larger and larger. I have been carefully observing the results, especially when one large session is performed a short time after a large session. I am convinced that sessions of 1,200 to 1,400 or more have a place only in patients with an enormous bald area and a very dense donor area of reasonable size. Incisions in which grafts are to be placed must be minute, and ample space must be left around each incision, i.e., between each graft.

I have observed no permanent loss of the first session's hair after planting minigrafts closely in the second session. What I have noticed, however, is poor growth in minigrafts planted in the second session, compared with those from the first session. Not only must we leave enough space between grafts in both sessions, but also we should allow at least three months between sessions to insure good growth in the second session. I believe dense packing is foolhardy. One may get away with it in a number of patients, but I think it is a percentage game; the closer one packs grafts together, the greater the percentage of cases of poor growth.

An excellent example is micrografts at the hairline. When we have had too many micrografts left over in a case, I used to crowd the extras into the part side of the hairline to avoid wasting them. But I found that the part side would then actually grow less hair than the other, less crowded side. I now plant any extras into existing hair-bearing areas that do not need transplanting, so as not to waste them. I am convinced that dense packing would simply guarantee a low survival rate—the equivalent of putting them in the garbage.

When I perform mini- and micrografting sessions less than three months apart, I notice in some patients a fall-off of graft survival in the second session. The closer one plants grafts in the second session, the more telogen one is likely to get, either from the previously existing hair or previously transplanted hair. In my experience, however, hair growth has virtually always returned, possibly because I never do any really dense packing. ■