

## URGENT: CONSUMER ALERT!

# Seeking Hair Restoration Surgery?



Be sure that a properly trained licensed physician\* is responsible for your treatment.



The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS) is concerned about the growing risk to patients of unlicensed technicians performing substantial aspects of hair restoration surgery. The use of unlicensed technicians to perform aspects of hair restoration surgery which should only be performed by a properly trained and licensed physician\* places patients at risk of:

(I) misdiagnosis;  
(II) failure to diagnose hair disorders and related systemic diseases; and  
(III) the performance of unnecessary or ill advised surgery all of which jeopardizes patient safety and outcomes. There may also be a risk that unlicensed technicians may not be covered by malpractice insurance.

The ISHRS believes the following aspects of hair restoration surgery should only be performed by a licensed physician\*:

- Preoperative diagnostic evaluation and consultation
- Surgery planning
- Surgery execution including:
  - Donor hair harvesting
  - Hairline design
  - Recipient site creation
- Management of other patient medical issues and possible adverse reactions
- Post-operative care

### FALSE ADVERTISING CLAIMS!

**There is no such thing as “scarless surgery”  
in hair transplantation.**

Lastly, the ISHRS is concerned about false and exaggerated advertising claims related to hair restoration surgery such as “scarless surgery” or the claim that the surgery can be completely performed by a machine.

The fact is that any incision whether by machine or hand that enters the skin beyond the most superficial of depths causes a scar to form, and there is currently no machine capable of automatically performing all the aspects of the hair restoration surgery. Available technology can only assist trained surgeons performing hair restoration surgery.

To help ensure patients have information needed to make informed decisions about who performs their hair restoration surgery, **the ISHRS urges potential patients to ask the following questions** as well as questions regarding costs, risks, and short and long-term benefits and planning:

### Patients Should Ask These Questions

1. Who will evaluate my hair loss and recommend a course of treatment? What is their education, training, licensure, and experience in treating hair loss?
2. Who will be involved in performing my surgery, what role will they play, and what is their education, training, licensure, and experience performing hair restoration surgery?
3. Will anyone not licensed by the state be making incisions or harvesting grafts during my surgery? If so, please identify this person, explain their specific role and why they are legally permitted to perform it.
4. Is everyone involved in my surgery covered by malpractice insurance?

**Be your own best advocate.  
Protect yourself.**



International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery

*A non-profit medical association*

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The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery is a non-profit medical association exempt from federal income tax pursuant to Internal revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). The mission of the ISHRS is to achieve excellence in medical and surgical outcomes by promoting member education, international collegiality, research, ethics, and public awareness.

\* or in countries where it is allowed, a licensed allied health professional practicing within the scope of his or her license.

REV. 11-15-14