

# THE ARTISTRY OF HAIR REPLACEMENT

## PART 2

BY DENISE SNIDER



This summer, *Social Life* has gotten to know Dr. Keith R. Durante M.D., F.A.C.S., a high-powered, fellowship-trained micro-vascular surgeon who decided to parlay his experience and expertise to help people live their lives to their fullest in a new way: hair loss management for both men and women. This also includes eyebrows, eyelashes, and beards.

Dr. Durante can restore hair surgically, but he doesn't always need to do so. He is a physician surgeon who is an expert in trichology, which is the study of the scalp. Some hair loss results from medical issues that can be improved or reversed. Medical management, as opposed to surgery, is an important aspect of Dr. Durante's practice.

But when hair transplants are called for, Dr. Durante is a superb choice. "I tell the naysayers to think about it: there's not much on the body that's finer than hair, and new technology eliminates some of the unnecessary and unappealing scarring

of former methods, allowing people to wear their hair very short—even a buzz cut—and no one will know they've had a transplant," says Dr. Durante. "So, for single-hair transplant, who better than a microsurgeon who's used to working with suture materials that are finer than a single hair."

The newest and most advanced method is the automated follicular unit extraction (FUE) technique. Dr. Durante harvests individual hairs from the back of a patient's head and then transplants them where needed. His skill as a vascular surgeon is what makes him so adept at this technique.

"There are many doctors who still believe in the strip method, because that's how they were trained, which, in my opinion, is no longer necessary. But, honestly, if you were in surgical training today, you'd be learning the latest technology, utilizing the automatic follicular extraction technique," says Dr. Durante. "The work is more tedious, but the quality is superior!"

Modern surgery has evolved to include less invasive and non-invasive procedures. FUE is a non-invasive office procedure. There's no bleeding or scarring, and results in minimal down time. And, says Dr. Durante, the technology has advanced so much that he can achieve satisfactory density for both men and women. "With the addition of protein rich plasma and low laser light therapy, we can even improve the results," he says.

Nonetheless, Dr. Durante says the average person waits five to seven years before getting a transplant because of misinformation and anxiety. Hair loss can actually lead to psychological depression. He says the longer people wait, the worse the situation will get. He recommends that a person seek medical advice at the first sign of thinning hair.

With experience, passion, and insight, Dr. Durante has indeed become the go-to expert for various methods to treat hair loss, particularly if people want an undetectable, artistic result. From fixing botched hair-replacement jobs to bringing life back to eyelashes, eyebrows, and beards, Dr. Durante has perfected it all.

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