

STANDARDS FOR HAIR TRANSPLANT SERVICES



Ministry of Health
Male', Republic of Maldives

Standards for Hair Transplant Services

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1. INTRODUCTION

Any procedure involving a skin incision for the purpose of tissue removal from the scalp or body, or to prepare the scalp or body to receive tissue, by any surgical procedure. Such procedures must be performed by a properly trained and licensed Registered Medical Practitioner, who perform hair restoration surgery must possess the education, training and current competency in the field of hair restoration surgery like adequate knowledge in hair physiology, pathogenesis of scarring and non-scarring alopecia, anatomy and physiology of scalp including scalp vasculature and nerve supply, adequate clinical skill to identify patients who are candidates for hair transplant surgery and contraindications for hair transplant including active scarring alopecia, adequate knowledge and clinical skill pertaining to the medical treatment of alopecia and pre and post-transplant medical care, acquired basic knowledge and skill base in surgeries pertaining to skin and its appendages, adequate training and knowledge pertaining to medical issues and possible adverse reactions that can arise during the hair transplant surgery including basic life support and resuscitation measures.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This standard applies to all health professionals and health facilities providing hair transplant services in the country.

3. PURPOSE

3.1. To assure provision of the highest levels of safety and quality Hair Transplant Services in Ministry of health licensed health facilities.

4. DEFINITIONS

Follicular units are naturally occurring groupings of hairs. They are sometimes referred to as grafts.

Follicular unit Extraction (FUE) is a method of graft harvest whereby punches of various types are used to remove follicular units from the donor region one at a time.

Follicular unit hair transplantation (FUT) is a hair transplant method where a long, thin piece of tissue is removed from the back of the scalp. Individual follicular units are then removed from the strip using stereo-microscopic dissection. Once the follicles have been harvested, the wound is closed leaving behind a single, very fine linear scar.

Hair transplantation is a surgical method of hair restoration.

Mini-micro-grafting involves removing thin strips of skin containing hair follicles from the back of the scalp and placing them in tiny holes in the bald or thinned area. Holes are created by a laser in order to create a natural appearance. The grafted hair falls out after the procedure but then grows back.

5. BACKGROUND

Hair transplantation is a minimally invasive surgical procedure of hair restoration. Contemporary hair transplant surgery offers results that are natural and undetectable. It is an excellent treatment option for male and female pattern hair loss. Patients undergoing hair transplantation are encouraged to use medical therapy in conjunction to help protect their surgical results and prevent ongoing thinning of the surrounding hair.

6. METHOD OF HAIR TRANSPLANT

- a. Follicular Unit hair Transplant (FUT) follicular unit extraction (FUE)
- b. Ultra-Refined -Funicular- Unit Transplantation (URFUT).
- c. Mini micro grafting

7. STANDARDS

7.1 *Standard one: Registration and licensure*

7.1.1 All health facilities providing hair transplant services shall adhere to the Ministry of health regulations.

7.1.2 Health facilities aiming to provide Hair Transplant services shall comply with the Ministry of health license and administrative procedures.

7.1.3 Hair transplant services can be provided in:

- a) Hospitals
- b) Day surgical centres
- c) Outpatient facilities with operation theatre setup

7.1.4 Licensed health facilities opting to add Hair Transplant services shall obtain permission to provide the required service.

7.1.5 The health facility should develop the following policies and procedure; but not limited to:

- a) Patient selection criteria
- b) Patient assessment and admission

- c) Patient education and Informed consent
- d) Patient health record
- e) Infection control measures and hazardous waste management
- f) Incident reporting
- g) Patient privacy
- h) Medication management
- i) Emergency action plan
- j) Patient discharge/transfer.

7.1.6 The health facility shall provide documented evidence of the following:

- a) Transfer of critical/complicated cases when required
- b) Patient discharge
- c) Clinical laboratory services
- d) Equipment maintenance services
- e) Proper Medical waste management as per local regulations

7.1.7 The health facility shall have in place a written plan for monitoring equipment for electrical and mechanical safety, with monthly visual inspections for apparent defects.

7.1.8 The health facility shall ensure it has in place adequate lighting and utilities, including temperature controls, water taps, medical gases, sinks and drains, lighting, electrical outlets and communications.

7.2 Standard two: Health facility requirements

7.2.1 The health facility should meet the health facility requirement as per the regulations by Ministry of Health.

7.2.2 Hair transplantation is a minor surgery that can be conducted in a procedure room.

7.2.3 The health facility shall provide a comfortable care environment for the services with focus on patient safety and privacy

7.2.4 The health facility shall ensure easy access to patients of determination.

7.2.5 The health facility shall have appropriate equipment and trained healthcare professionals to manage critical and emergency cases.

7.2.6 The health facility shall ensure the availability of:

- a) A sterilization and disinfection room
- b) A medical waste room.

7.2.7 Facilities opting to perform Hair Transplant services that do not have fully equipped Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capabilities shall have adequate facilities attend the emergency (monitoring facilities such as hemodynamic monitoring equipment etc.) and a crash cart (emergency Trolley) on-site to perform necessary patient resuscitation. There should be trained staff to attend emergencies and written instruction displayed according to standard ALS - protocol.

7.3 Standards three: healthcare professionals' requirement

7.3.1 Healthcare professionals shall obtain a Maldives Medical and Dental council (MMDC) license to practice as dermatologist/ plastic surgeon.

7.3.2 The Privileging Committee and/or Medical Director of the health facility shall privilege healthcare professionals with a valid (MMC) license to practice as dermatologist/ plastic surgeon. (Hair transplant based on their training, experience and competencies.) The privilege shall be reviewed and revised on regular intervals.

7.3.3 Hair transplantation is a team effort. Hair transplant technicians help/ assist the physicians to conduct hair transplantation. All the support staff involved in the procedure should have appropriate qualifications.

7.4 Standard four: patient selection

7.4.1 Patient selection is a tremendously important element of the aesthetic medicine. Patient selection can be done case by case basis, taking in to consideration the medical history, allergic history and psychiatric history by the treating physician.

7.4.2 In very young patients whose early alopecia is still evolving, patients with Norwood grade VI or VII with poor hair density, patients with unrealistic expectations and patients with significant systemic health problems, physicians should exercise caution.

7.5 Standard five: pre-operative counseling and informed consent

7.5.1 Informed Consent shall be obtained by the treating physician prior to procedure/ surgery and/ or interventions (excluding emergency cases), after discussing the complication, risks, benefits and alternatives.

7.5.2 Consent documentation shall be maintained in the patient's health records.

7.5.3 Detailed informed consent form listing details about the procedure and possible benefits, risks and complications should be signed by the patient.

7.5.4 The consent form should specifically state the limitations of the procedure and if more procedures are needed for proper results, it should be clearly mentioned.

7.5.5 Patient should be provided with adequate opportunity to seek information through brochures, computer presentations, and personal discussions.

7.5.6 Need for concomitant medical therapy should be emphasized.

7.5.7 Patients should understand that proper hair growth can be expected after about nine months after transplantation. 8.8. Preoperative laboratory studies to be performed include Hb%, blood counts including platelet

count, bleeding and clotting time (or prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time), blood chemistry profile including sugar.

7.6 Standard six: patient care

7.6.1 The health facility shall provide a comfortable care environment for the service with focus on patient safety and privacy.

7.6.2 The health facility should accommodate the needs of patients from different cultures and languages; this may include but not limited to, providing information brochures in several languages and providing accessible translators when required.

7.6.3 Most patients will need concurrent medical treatment since the process of pattern hair loss is progressive and may affect the remaining hairs.

7.6.4 Follow up visits shall be arranged to ensure outcome of the procedure and continuity of care.

7.7 Standard seven: infection control

7.7.1 When healthcare professionals providing hair transplant services adhere to infection control and safety precautions, risks of infection to patients and healthcare professionals are greatly reduced.

7.7.2 Infection control measures shall be used in the health facility to prevent or reduce the potential for disease transmission, measures shall include but, not limited to the following:

- a) Hand Hygiene
- b) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- c) Sterilization and disinfection of patient care items
- d) Environmental infection control and Medical Waste Management

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