



ASSOCIATION OF HAIR RESTORATION SURGEONS- INDIA

Registration No. 182 of 2008-2009
Register of Firms & Societies, Chandigarh, Punjab

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Consumer Alert - AHRS cautions public against untrained doctors and non-physicians performing hair transplant surgery

The rise in demand for hair loss treatments has been unparalleled. The number of searches online for hair loss treatments is more than that for all cosmetic surgeries put together.

This increased demand has led, to a lot of fly by night operators, who use unqualified personnel for providing these services. Looking specifically at the field of hair transplant, one cannot help but observe the steep rise in hair restoration clinics mushrooming all over the country.

But the more alarming fact to surface out recently is that, technicians who have been trained by a qualified surgeon, quit their job and form their own team. This group then free lances as a mobile hair transplant team conducting all aspects of the procedures (which they are actually not qualified to perform independently) for unscrupulous doctors (not practicing or trained in hair restoration) or to centers which offer cheap hair transplants to patients. Apart from poor results of the procedure, what is more important is that the precious donor area is damaged. The day is not far, where one will see a lot of hair transplant cripples, with donor depletion caused by overharvesting, especially with FUE, by these technicians. Most of these clinics offer an absurd number of grafts in one session.

This practice is prevalent only because Hair Transplant is a very long & physically tedious surgery. Many doctors, technicians & clinics use these unethical means because they wish to offer these surgeries at unbelievably low cost and carry on their current practice at the same time.

The Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons, India is making all efforts to curb the use of unqualified personnel performing hair transplantation. One of the first steps obviously, is educating the people on the science and practice of hair restoration. Specifically how does one choose a doctor to manage his/her hair loss?

This can easily be done by looking at the qualifications of the doctor - And as per AHRS India, a registered MBBS doctor who has obtained Medical Council of India recognized qualification in Medicine and who is actively involved in the practice of Hair Restoration Surgery (Regd. No. 182 under Societies Registration Act, 1860).

<http://ahrsindia.org/Constitution-ahrs.html>

We, as an association are doing our best by trying to educate patients about such practices but the patients and consumers can do their bit by checking the background of the doctors or centers, their qualifications, affiliations, academic achievements etc.

As per the guidelines followed and approved by the ISHRS (International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery, USA & ABHRS (American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery) and AHRS (Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons) India, only a qualified allopathic physician/surgeon can do

- Pre-operative 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

The AHRS, India plans to approach the Medical Council of India to issue a consumer alert regarding these issues.

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