

EYELASH TRANSPLANTATION

Thanks to modern advancements in extraction and implantation technology, it is possible to transplant healthy, growing hair follicles permanently into the eyelid to restore or augment existing eyelashes.

Generally, this specialized technique was used for patients who have missing eyelashes due to injury or burns, but recently there has been a dramatic increase in demand to cosmetically enhance sparse or “weak” eyelashes.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR EYELASH TRANSPLANTATION?

Those who have eyelashes that have been damaged by physical trauma, burns, eyelash extensions, or have been successfully treated for the compulsive hair-pulling disease trichotillomania, are usually viable candidates for this procedure. However, those with active eyelash trichotillomania may not undergo the procedure as pulling/plucking can cause damage to the transplanted lashes. Further, patients suffering from alopecia totalis, alopecia universalis, or have active eyelid inflammation are not candidates for eyelash transplantation.

Note: For safety reasons, eyelash transplantation is only performed on the upper eyelid.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The procedure is performed in-office under local anesthesia. Hair follicles are harvested from a discreet donor site (typically in the back of the scalp) and then precision-implanted into the upper eyelid. Approximately 60-90 lashes can be implanted within a single session per lid, which takes about 2-4 hours. Absorbable stitches are used on the donor site, which will remain undetectable both during and after the healing process, which lasts about 2-3 weeks.

WHEN WILL TRANSPLANTED LASHES GROW?

Transplanted lashes typically shed within 2 weeks after implantation, and will begin to regrow at about 6-12 weeks post-procedure. Usually, about 90% of transplanted eyelashes will grow, and a complete cosmetic result can be expected within 12 months.

It's important to note that transplanted follicles are not the same as your body's eyelash follicles. While standard eyelash follicles grow hairs that only reach a certain length, transplanted follicles will continue to grow just as they would have in their original location, so lashes will need to be trimmed and curled regularly.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EYELASH TRANSPLANTATION

IS IT PAINFUL?

A comfortable, computer-assisted local anesthetic, and a mild sedative are both administered prior to the procedure. Additionally, medications to ease mild discomfort and to reduce inflammation in treated areas are administered postoperatively. Several hours after the procedure, some soreness may be experienced in either the donor area or eyelids, or both. This will usually subside within 24 to 48 hours.

WHAT IS THE DOWNTIME?

Patients are advised to wear the provided protective goggles while sleeping for the first few nights. Patients will likely experience some crusting and bruising in the eyelid area during the first week. Patients may not use mascara or any other eye makeup within the first 10 days following the procedure. Sunglasses may be worn during this time.

Finally, the absorbable stitches used in the donor site at the back of the scalp may take several weeks to dissolve completely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As with any cosmetic procedure, there are always both known and unknown risks to consider. Known risks of eyelash implantation are considered similar and equal to those associated with any minor eyelid surgery, and depend on a number of factors, such as the number of lashes being implanted, and the overall health of the patient. Bauman Medical recommends that patients discuss all potential risks and concerns about this or any other surgery with their doctor prior to beginning treatment.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Did you know? Dr. Bauman is one of the first experienced eyelash transplant surgeons in the world and has written numerous articles and textbook chapters on the subject.