

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SURGEON FOR YOUR NEOGRAFT FUE HAIR TRANSPLANT

Hair transplantation is the only permanent way to restore your own living and growing hair. Although there are several types of hair transplant procedures available, NeoGraft FUE (follicular unit extraction) is a less invasive option for efficient hair follicle harvesting—allowing for quicker/more comfortable recovery, less downtime and no linear scar.

Patient advocate and American Hair Loss Association founder, Spencer Kobren, says “all NeoGraft surgeons are not created equal,” recommending that all patients “do their homework” and be prepared to travel if necessary when it comes time to choose a surgeon.

Alan J. Bauman, M.D., founder of the Bauman Medical Group and a board-certified hair restoration surgeon, has developed a list of questions and a convenient checklist to help you evaluate your NeoGraft surgeon.

Dr. Bauman encourages patients to read the list of questions before their consultation and make their own judgment regarding which attributes, qualifications and certifications they deem most important. Dr. Bauman also suggests printing out the checklist to bring with them during their initial consultation appointment. Ask all of the questions listed on this form and write in the doctor’s answers. Some of this information may also be available on the practice’s website, but it is always a good idea to double check with the surgeon himself regarding the information.

DR. ALAN BAUMAN'S NEOGRAFT SURGEON CHECKLIST:

QUESTION	Doctor #1	Doctor #2	Alan J. Bauman, M.D.
On average, how many hair transplants does the doctor perform each week?			5-8
How many surgical technicians does the doctor use to assist in each surgery?			4-8
How many full-time surgical technicians does the doctor have on staff?			6
How many years has the doctor been performing hair transplant surgery?			>15 (1996)
How many years has the doctor been performing <u>manual</u> FUE hair transplants?			>8 (2002)
When did the doctor begin performing <u>automated/ NeoGraft FUE</u> surgery?			2008
How many NeoGraft FUE surgeries has the doctor performed?			>100
Is the doctor certified by the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS)?			Yes
Is the doctor 'accepted' by the International Alliance of Hair Restoration Surgeons (IAHRS)?			Yes
Is the doctor 'recommended' by the American Hair Loss Association (AHLA)?			Yes
Is the doctor a member of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS)?			Yes
How many ISHRS Scientific Meetings and Live Surgery Workshops has the doctor attended?			>15
Is the doctor a member of the "NeoGraft Network?"			Yes
Has the doctor ever been disciplined by a state medical board?			No
Can the doctor provide you before-and-after photos of his own surgical cases?			Yes
Can you meet with or speak with patients who have been through the procedure?			Yes
Additional Comments/Notes:			

Questions to ask your NeoGraft / FUE Hair Transplant Surgeon and Why

- 1) What is your background and level of surgical training? Where did you go to medical school? Where did you do your residency and in what field of specialty?
 - a. Hair transplant surgeons, like many cosmetic surgeons, come from diverse backgrounds. Learning about your hair transplant surgeon's level of formalized training specifically in surgery and also their experience with hair transplants in general can reveal a great deal about their expertise and motivation.
- 2) Have you ever had any disciplinary action taken against your medical license in this state or in any other state? Has your license ever been revoked or suspended? Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
- 3) Are you a member of the ISHRS, the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery? How long have you been a member?
 - a. The ISHRS is the foremost educational organization for physicians in the field of hair restoration. The ISHRS provides the only Annual Scientific Meeting specifically dedicated to hair restoration surgery as well as hosting Annual and Regional Live Surgery Workshops. The ISHRS edits and distributes the only publication dedicated exclusively to the field of hair transplant surgery.
- 4) How many ISHRS meetings/live workshops have you attended?
 - a. Many surgeons 'claim' membership, but do not attend conferences or workshops where the latest information is presented and debated. It's fair to ask your surgeon why they choose to not attend scientific conferences. Asking specifically about their participation can tell you whether their membership certificate is worth more than the just the annual fee.
- 5) Is hair transplantation your primary specialty? What other surgical procedures do you perform? How did you become interested in hair transplantation?
 - a. Many hair transplant surgeons perform other procedures, but hair transplants have evolved to become a labor-intensive 'symphony' of detail both technically and artistically. Do you want a doctor who has recently added hair transplant as a 'menu-item' or a full-time hair transplant doctor?
 - b. Today, hair transplants are labor-intensive procedures, requiring a dedicated staff of experienced technicians to achieve good graft survival and quality results. Do you want a surgical staff that is more comfortable with facelifts and breast augmentation than the occasional hair transplant? Full-time hair transplant surgeons will typically have an experienced full-time hair transplant staff. It's fair to ask your doctor about his experience as well as the experience of his staff.
- 6) What have you published/presented in the field of hair transplantation?
 - a. Your surgeon should be proud to tell you the various scientific publications, abstracts, lectures and book chapters he has contributed to his field.

- 7) Are you certified by the ABHRS, the American and International Board of Hair Restoration Surgery?
- a. The American and International Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS) is the only certifying board in the field. Made up of physicians, the board works toward the goal that ABHRS-certified doctors perform safe and aesthetic surgery. Oral and written tests, as well as timely recertification are required. Currently there are approximately 100 physicians who have been certified by the ABHRS.
- 8) Are you an accepted member of the IAHRs, the International Alliance of Hair Restoration Surgeons?
- a. The IAHRs is a consumer organization recognized by Consumer Reports for their hair transplant/hair loss patient-advocacy efforts. Founded by bestselling author and syndicated radio talk show host, Spencer Kobren, the IAHRs and its affiliate organization, The American Hair Loss Association, have accepted/recommended only about 50 surgeons worldwide.
- 9) Are you a member of the NeoGraft Network?
- a. NeoGraft Network is an online community of physicians, patients and others interested in performing and researching hair transplants performed with the NeoGraft device.
- 10) How many hair transplants do you perform daily/monthly/weekly/annually?
- a. Highly-specialized surgeons and their teams who perform hair transplant surgery on a consistent basis (e.g. daily, as opposed to weekly or monthly) are more apt to be proficient and efficient in their procedures.
- 11) How many dedicated hair transplant technicians are used for each procedure?
- a. A modern hair transplant procedure which transplants literally thousands of grafts can take 20 man-hours or more to complete. A procedure that uses one or two techs will certainly be a smaller procedure than one that utilizes four or six technicians—given the same amount of time. If your surgeon says you'll be "done before lunch," be sure you know the ramifications of a mini-hair transplant session.
- 12) How many full-time hair transplant technicians work in your practice?
- a. The number of full-time hair transplant technicians in a given practice speaks to the volume of procedures that are being performed. If a surgeon's hair transplant practice only uses part-time or per diem staff, what does this say about the volume of procedures he is performing?
- 13) How many years have you been performing hair transplants in general (strip or FUE)?
- a. The number of years a surgeon has performed transplants tells you his experience with a variety of techniques, instruments and devices, both old and new. Complications can occur with any procedure and any surgeon, but the more experience a surgeon has, the fewer 'problems' you can typically expect and the better care you'll receive if something doesn't go as planned.
- 14) How long have you been using the NeoGraft device? How many NeoGraft surgeries have you personally performed?

- a. NeoGraft devices are ‘popping up’ all over. Asking when a surgeon received his NeoGraft device and when he started performing NeoGraft on a regular basis will reveal his level of experience with the device.

15) Did you perform ‘Manual’ FUE before NeoGraft FUE became available? For how long and how often?

- a. Manual (non-automated) FUE has been available since 2002 in some practices. If your surgeon has years of experience with Manual FUE, he and his team may be more adept at performing hair transplants with the small grafts that are obtained from FUE or NeoGraft. FUE grafts can be smaller and more fragile than microscopically-dissected grafts (from strip FUT) and therefore require special care and handling. What year did your surgeon start performing FUE regularly?

16) May I see some pictures of your own hair transplant patients, especially close-up hairlines you have designed?

- a. When all is said and done, it’s all about the results. Do they look natural, provide good coverage? Trust your gut feeling. Is there something ‘off’ or contrived about the appearance of the transplanted hairline. Do the hairline photos show the hair combed down hiding the hairline, leaving you to wonder ‘what’s under there?’) Did the surgeon create a feathery randomized hairline or a too-straight ‘wall of hair’? Does it look pluggy or ‘grafted’ in any way? Did he address the temporal points? Does the angulation of the hairs look natural to you or are they sticking out of the scalp perpendicularly? A painter could have the best brushes and tools, but can he create something that looks natural?
- b. How good is the photography? A surgeon proud of his work should have high-quality, high resolution photos taken with standardized lighting and consistent backgrounds (i.e. not a pocket camera with a flash). Good, standardized photography enables you to see exactly what to expect in the transplanted and harvested areas, as well as accurately track your progress over time.

17) What should I be doing to maintain my existing hair?

- a. What is your surgeon’s attitude toward preventative treatments (like minoxidil, finasteride, laser therapy, etc.) that have been given the ‘OK’ from the FDA? How much time was spent discussing the hair loss you might experience in the future and what to do about it? Hair transplantation may be the only permanent hair restoration option for severely depleted areas, but what about the other hair? What is the plan to maintain existing hair (and monitor for future loss)? Board-certified surgeons will typically have a more proactive approach to hair loss prevention.

18) May I speak with/meet with several patients who have had a NeoGraft procedure?

- a. Does the surgeon have patients who are readily available to speak with or to meet with? What was their experience and their results?

19) Again, trust your gut instinct. Is the surgeon or staff pushy or aggressive? Are they offering you a discount for signing on? Be wary of the ‘special deal’ or ‘discount.’ How quickly can you get a surgical appointment? Asking about wait-times can tell you how busy that surgeon is.

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