ADVANCING THE ART OF HAIR TRANSPLANTS

In each edition, Modern Aesthetics® asks top aesthetic physicians about the newest devices in their practices. This month, BARRY DIBERNARDO, MD talks about the ARTAS SYSTEM AND ARTAS HAIR STUDIO. Dr. DiBernardo is the Medical Director of New Jersey Plastic Surgery® in Montclair, NJ, Past President of the New Jersey Society of Plastic Surgeons (2005-2006), an Associate Clinical Professor in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery at UMDNJ, and is currently is on the board of directors of the Aesthetic Surgery Program at Mountainside Hospital and the Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CURRENT HAIR TRANSPLANTATION MARKET AND ANY KEY DEVELOPMENTS?
The hair transplant market is a large market—about 35 million men in the US have hair loss, says Dr. DiBernardo, and those men are very concerned about that hair loss. In fact, he says that there have been a million inquiries about hair loss in the last three months on the website realself.com.

“The last few years have seen significant advances in hair transplantation,” Dr. DiBernardo. He says hair transplant techniques have moved from the strip method where a scar is left behind the head that is very visible with short hair cuts to a technique using follicular unit grafting. “And we now have technologies that have follicular unit grafting as the basis of what they can do can do” he adds.

WHAT IS THE ARTAS SYSTEM AND ARTAS HAIR STUDIO?
The ARTAS System is a physician-guided robotic hair transplant device that will very precisely and accurately harvest follicular unit grafts from the posterior scalp, explains Dr. DiBernardo. Those grafts are then processed into the hair transplants that will be used at the recipient site. “You get very good grafts— very high quality,” he says. And using that graft, you get a very natural result to the transplanted area.
NEW IN MY PRACTICE: DEVICES

The ARTAS Hair Studio is a newer version of the software that is used in conjunction with the ARTAS System that allows us to actually do a consultation with the patient so they can visually see in 3D what their hair line might look like, what the graft orientation might look like, and what the hair follicle looks like growing.

“It is a very good communication tool to get exactly what they want in the creation of the recipient site. That information is then stored on a USB and when it comes the day of their hair transplant that’s inserted into the device and those recipient sites are created just as we did in the consultation,” Dr. DiBernardo explains.

HOW ARE YOU USING THIS DEVICE AND HOW HAS IT CHANGED YOUR PRACTICE?

“We’re using the ARTAS device as one of our main technologies in hair transplantation in our practice because of its ability to harvest with precision. We’re getting really nice grafts, it’s been a very good complement to our hair transplantation section,” says Dr. DiBernardo. “The device/system changed our practice by continuing what our mission statement is—and that is whether it’s hair transplant devices or other devices to maintain the latest and best technologies in aesthetics. And this really epitomizes that in the hair transplant arena.”

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS OR PEARLS FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES ABOUT USING THIS SYSTEM?

For those who are doing or want to do hair transplantation, Dr. DiBernardo says this is definitely something they should be looking at “because this is going to be a strong force in what we do in hair transplants going forward.” He says he recommends that colleagues offer hair transplantation should definitely look at the ARTAS System as something to bring into their practice.

DOWNLOAD the Modern Aesthetics® App to watch Dr. DiBernardo discuss hair transplantation.