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DOC HAS BALD TRUTH ABOUT SURGERY

BOTCH AND GO

IRISH MEN'S HORROR HAIR OPS

EXCLUSIVE
BY LYNNE KELLEHER



IRISH men are being left disfigured for life by botched hair transplants.

The promise of lower prices – often in foreign clinics – is leading people to pay for poor quality transplants which leave them scarred.

More and more Irish men are opting for the cosmetic procedure after a host of high-profile stars, including Wayne Rooney and Louis Walsh, have opened up about undergoing hair transplants.

However, Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the Blackrock Clinic, Dr Siún Murphy, said there are a growing number of cases of men getting cut-price procedures – both in Ireland and abroad – which have left them permanently scarred.

DISFIGURED

She said: "It's absolutely horrific. If they have a really bad job that hasn't been executed properly, designed properly, they really are essentially disfigured for life.

"We see criss-crossed train tracks of scars at the back of the head, the scars are thick and wide and are visible through hair. People are getting really, really upset. There is little enough you can do

to undo the botch job. As a plastic surgeon I can remedy scars to some degree, but I can't make it go away."

The operations involve taking living hair follicles from areas where it is still growing and transplanting them to balding areas.

However, while the rich and famous can spend thousands to have transplants done in high-end clinics, others can be tempted by the cut-price procedures offered abroad.

As the hair is shaved at the back to carry out the procedure, it can be months later before men realise their

head has been over-harvested, leaving them with bald patches and scarring.

The procedure has graduated from transplanting three or four follicles of hair at a time to the more refined strip surgery which involves taking a strip of skin and hair follicles and slicing them up and transplanting them individually.

Dr Murphy, who carries out transplants in Hair Restoration **Blackrock**, said it is a complex, time-consuming procedure.

The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS) recently released photographs of hair transplants which have gone badly wrong to increase public awareness of illegal clinic.

The ISHRS said many illegal clinics have slick websites with testimonials that appear professional, but the reality is the surgery may

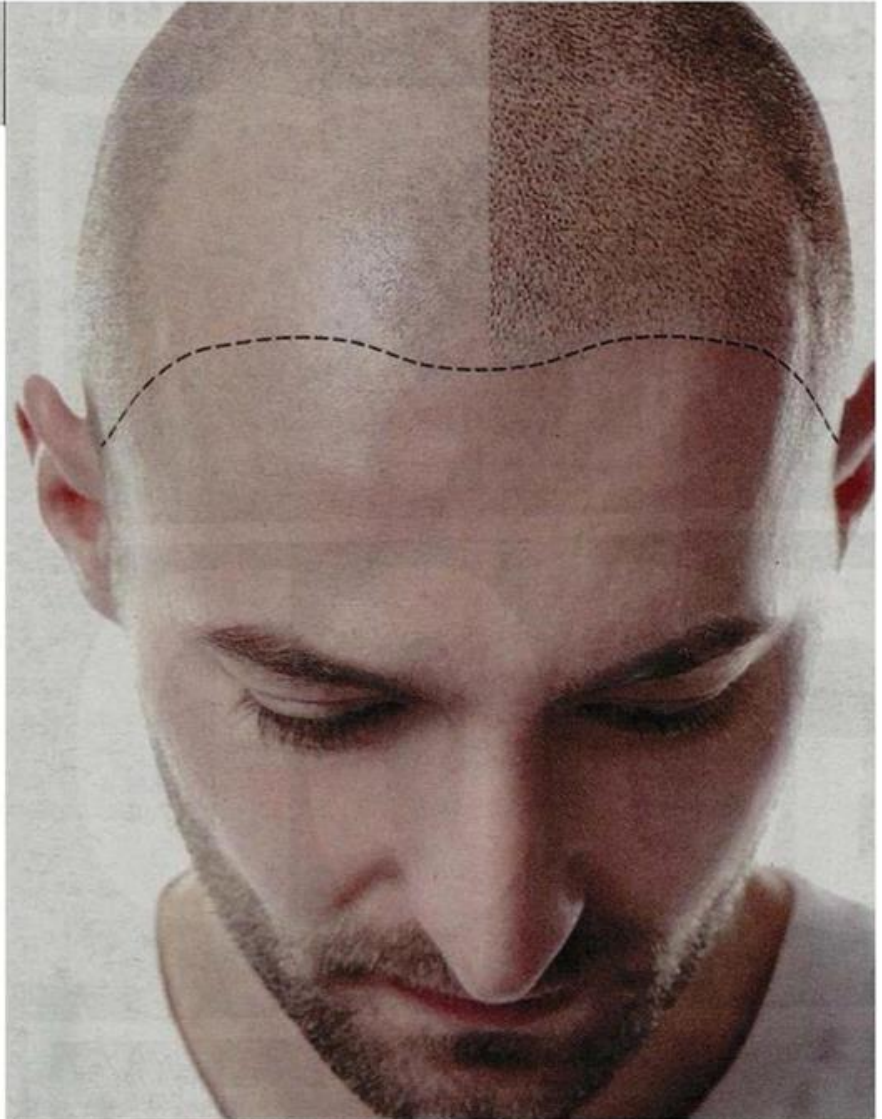


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be done by someone with no medical training.
Dr Murphy added: "The problem is a lot of countries are starting these pop-up hair transplant clinics and they are training random Joe Bloggs off the street to do hair transplants and it really is a very technically intense job."



WARNING:
Dr Murphy



HAIR-RAISING: Irish men are looking for cheap hair transplant surgery options abroad