

Comments and devices from other practices

José Lorenzo, MD Madrid, Spain joselorenzo@injertocapilar.com

Viewing the description of Dr. Vasa's Unique Universal Transplanter, and as regular users of implanters, we would like to expose the fundamental characteristics it must have to be a real help when implanting the grafts. The recent collaboration on the new design of our regular implanters has increased our knowledge of the following key details to consider when seeking the best tool:

1. Needle (disposable) (Figure 1):

- External diameter. We work with 2 diameters, 0.8mm (1- and 2-hair FUs) and 1mm (2-, 3-, and 4-hair FUs). Larger sizes are usually unnecessary (Figure 2).
- Channel. The channel must be sufficiently wide to allow the upper part of the graft to slip easily. A narrow channel generates trauma and decapitation. The minimum ratio of external diameter/channel should be 10:4 (Figure 3).
- Bevel. A large bevel with a fine wall facilitates the loading of the unit. An acute angle (close to 30°) helps a smooth penetration of the dermis (avoiding popping and bleeding) (Figure 4).
- Tip. The tip must be sharp and resistant in order to withstand the procedure without dulling. Blunt tips increase the popping (Figure 5).
- Surgical Steel. It is very important for us to use a good-quality steel because we do not pre-make the sites, but rather we create the site and plant in one movement. Surgical steel will allow the use of the same needle during the whole procedure; bad steel will bend the tips and dull the bevel, thus increasing the chances for popping and bleeding (Figure 6).

2. Implanter (sterilizable) (Figure 7)

- Adjustable size. The size should adjust to the surgeon's hand; both in length and width the implanters have similar standards. Aerodynamic shapes of the body usually hinder rather than help the agility of the movements.
- Round body. It is important to rotate on the table and ease the exchange with the techs in a fast, safe, and effective way. ♦

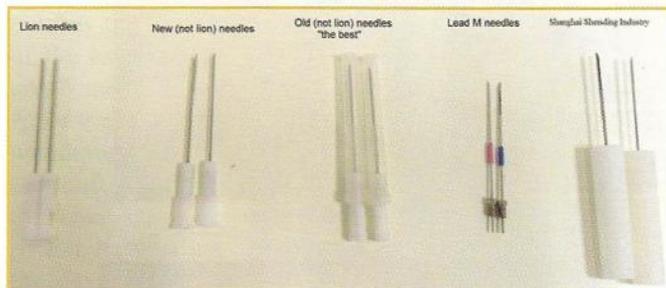


Figure 1. It is best to use a disposable needle.

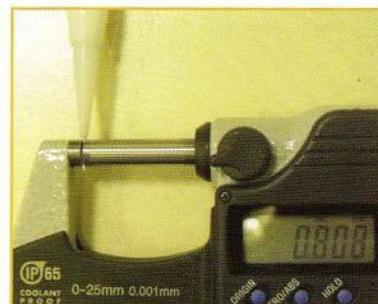


Figure 2. External diameter should be 0.8mm or 1mm.

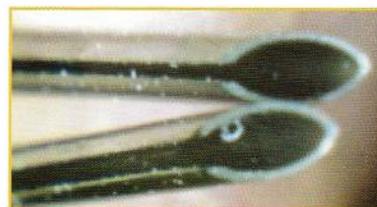


Figure 3. The channel must be sufficiently wide.



Figure 4. Large bevel is necessary to facilitate loading.



Figure 5. Sharp tips will help to decrease popping.



Figure 6. It is important to use good-quality surgical steel.

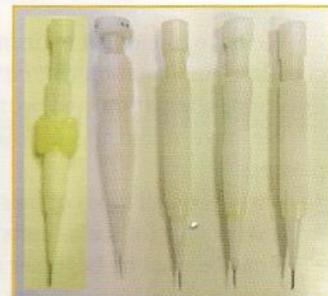


Figure 7. Implanter should be able to be sterilized.