



Life Style Cars & Gear Women Sport Travel Dining Culture

How everyone can have a beard like this

The beard transplant is the new cosmetic procedure sweeping the GCC.

By Peter Iantorno



Some men, no matter how much they want it to happen and how long they persist, simply cannot grow a beard. It's a fact of life, and it's never going to change.

Years ago this wasn't such an issue for the baby-faced bunch – apart from a few jibes from their grizzly-jawed contemporaries, they escaped relatively scot-free. However, with the beard now firmly entrenched in men's style (it really is the trend that just won't go away, even though we thought it might), increasingly these beardless wonders are suffering from their lack of growth.

So, what to do? Well, it turns out that just as men who are thinning out on top can get an artificial boost with aid of a hair transplant – see Wayne Rooney and James Nesbitt for recent high-profile examples – nowadays men can get a bit of extra help in the beard department, too.



Anisa Vrabac, Head of Hair Transplant Department at Dubai Cosmetic Surgery clinic.

Using a similar procedure to that of a scalp hair transplant, a beard transplant takes hair follicles from a donor area – usually the back of the head, where hair is at its thickest – and inserts them into the beard area using a method known as FUE (Follicular Unit Extraction).

Anisa Vrabac, the Head of Hair Transplant Department at Dubai Cosmetic Surgery clinic claims that this procedure can be used for everything from filling in a few sparse areas in a patchy beard, to crafting a stylish moustache and even creating an entire beard from scratch.

“Beard hair transplant can take anywhere from two to eight hours depending on the number of grafts to be transplanted,” she says. Grafts can range anywhere from 500 for a moustache, to 1,500 for a goatee and up to 3,000 for a full beard.

According to Vrabac, transplanted beard hairs grow just like a normal beard would. “It is permanent and natural-looking, and after the final results, which take six to 12 months to show, the person can shave, style and even colour without any worry.” The treatment is becoming increasingly popular, especially in the Arab world, where facial hair is a must for most men. “A large portion of our clients at Dubai Cosmetic Surgery clinic seeking beard transplant is of Arab origin, from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and other surrounding countries in the region,” says

Vrabac.

“Traditionally having a beard is a sign of virility and strength, and very important if you were going to marry someone,” she adds.

And it's for these reasons that Vrabac has seen the number of men seeking beard transplants more than double in the past couple of years. “This is because men in and outside the UAE have realised that they can have a full beard that is natural and permanent,” she says.

The cost of a beard transplant at Dubai Cosmetic Surgery clinic starts from AED 15,000, but depending on the number of grafts needed, that figure can get much higher – a full beard and moustache could potentially set you back upwards of AED 18,000.

It's certainly not cheap, but in a world where image is increasingly important, the beard transplant is a viable option for those who can't grow one naturally and can spare the cash. Think of getting one? We have just one word of warning: don't come crying to us when the beard trend does finally die for good and you're stuck shaving every morning before work like the rest of us.

