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I'm a hair transplant surgeon and here's why business is booming (thesun.ie)

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HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW I'm a hair transplant surgeon and here's why business is booming

Danielle Masterson

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THE number of Irish men getting hair transplants has surged since the pandemic began - with Zoom meetings leaving many follically-challenged fellas "at the brink of mental and emotional exhaustion".

Dr Andre Nel, hair restoration surgeon, of the HSW Clinic, says he has seen a 50 per cent spike in demand for hair transplants.

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Ireland AM's Alan Hughes has openly spoken about his transplant

Credit: Free for editorial use

Kerry's Darran O'Sullivan underwent the procedure and was delighted with the results Credit: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

The surgeon, whose clients include telly favourite Alan Hughes and sports star Darran O'Sullivan, said: "Confidence is the biggest boost for patients and I and my team remain in touch with our past patients as they keep us updated on the positive life changes the procedure has helped with."

The hair restoration surgeon - based in Swords, Co Dublin - believes the number of men seeking hair transplants will continue to soar.

The South Africa native said: "I have built up a loyal customer base over the past decade, people who have come to us on the brink of mental and emotional exhaustion from the despair they feel with hair loss are now transformed, not just physically but emotionally."

"There continues to be a stigma around the procedure, people seem to think that men don't feel badly about their appearance or that is has no effect on their emotional wellbeing so it's heartening to see an increase in demand for the procedure as it shows this stigma is diminishing."

WHO HAS GOT A HAIR TRANSPLANT?

Men can choose from a selection of procedures from hair transplant surgery to eyebrow transplants to beard transplants.

Famous faces who've undergone successful transplants include Wayne Rooney, Louis Walsh, Calum Best, Brian McFadden and RTE star Marty Whelan.

Some of Dr Nel's clients have seen exceptional and sustainable results, including Ireland AM's Alan Hughes and All Ireland Winner, Darran O'Sullivan of Kerry GAA fame.

Dr Andre believes many people have "healthier bank balances with recreational activities on the backburner" so they are investing in themselves.

He said: "We only work with people who are committed to the process, as it does require an investment of time and some small changes in lifestyle to achieve the best results."

'LIFE CHANGING'

Many of his patients have found the procedure "life changing".

He added: "Our results speak for themselves, many of our patients are completely transformed after the procedure.

"I encourage anyone who feels poorly about their appearance as a result of hair loss to get in touch with us and see how we can help you feel like the best version of yourself once more."

One of his patients said the procedure "changed his life" and that he couldn't "believe how much better I look".

Meanwhile, a doctor decided to have an eyebrow transplant because she was fed up of putting on makeup every morning.

Dr Andre Nel's patients include Alan Hughes and Darran O'Sullivan

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Before and after pictures of Darran O'Sullivan