

## Baldness treatment a 'step closer'

25th October, 2013



Help may soon be at hand (or head) for the millions around the world who suffer from and worry about baldness. Scientists from the University of Durham in the UK, and Columbia University Medical Centre in the USA, say they are close to finding a solution to grow new hair. This is also good

news for burns victims, who are likely to be those first helped by any new treatment. The scientists have grown new hair follicles in the laboratory. This is different from currently available treatments, which simply transplant hair from the back of the scalp to cover bald spots and areas without hair at the front of the head. Unlike transplants, the new procedure will allow the hair to keep growing naturally in the follicle.

Researcher Colin Jahoda did not give a timeframe in which his research will be commercially available. He said: "It's closer, but it's still some way away because in terms of what people want cosmetically they're looking for re-growth of hair that's the same shape, the same size, as long as before, the same angle. Some of these are almost engineering solutions." He did assure those with receding hairlines and those thinning on top that there is hope. He said: "I think baldness will eventually be treatable, absolutely." Professor Jahoda's colleague Angela Christiano was equally positive, saying their research could "revolutionise" hair-loss treatment. She said: "The first step is actually showing that it can be done."

Sources: BBC / LiveScience.com / Fox News

### Writing

*Being bald is more convenient than having lots of hair.* Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

help / suffer / baldness / hair / burns victims / treatment / transplant / bald spots / timeframe / commercially / angle / engineering / receding hairline / revolutionise

### True / False

- Scientists in India are close to finding a solution to baldness. T / F
- The research may help people who have suffered burns on their skin. T / F
- Current methods transplant hair from the body to the head. T / F
- The new method actually grows new hair. T / F
- Researchers said the new treatment would be available from 2015. T / F
- People want hair the same size and angle as before. T / F
- A professor said engineering solutions were needed. T / F
- Another professor said the new treatment was not revolutionary. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. at hand        | a. unlike           |
| 2. suffer from    | b. guarantee        |
| 3. treatment      | c. regarding        |
| 4. different      | d. care             |
| 5. procedure      | e. answers          |
| 6. in terms of    | f. coming soon      |
| 7. solutions      | g. retreating       |
| 8. assure         | h. shake up         |
| 9. receding       | i. be troubled with |
| 10. revolutionise | j. method           |

### Discussion – Student A

- How popular do you think the baldness treatment will be?
- What are the disadvantages of being bald?
- What do you think of your hair?
- What other hair treatments would you like scientists to discover?
- What hairstyle would you really, really like to have?
- Do people worry too much about their hair?
- What advice would you give to someone worried about going bald?
- What questions would you like to ask professor Jahoda?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Help may soon be                     | a. available treatments      |
| 2. suffer from and                      | b. hairlines                 |
| 3. burns                                | c. naturally in the follicle |
| 4. different from currently             | d. solutions                 |
| 5. allow the hair to keep growing       | e. on top                    |
| 6. It's closer, but it's still some way | f. worry about baldness      |
| 7. engineering                          | g. victims                   |
| 8. receding                             | h. that it can be done       |
| 9. those thinning                       | i. at hand                   |
| 10. The first step is actually showing  | j. away                      |

## Discussion – Student B

- Why do men go bald?
- Why do men worry about going bald?
- How would (did) you feel if (when) you started going bald?
- What are the advantages of being bald?
- How would new hair change someone's life?
- Why do we have hair?
- Why do men usually go bald but not women (so much)?
- Are bald women beautiful?

## Spelling

- close to finding a oslontui
- The scientists have grown new hair slililofec
- in the aayrorlbt.
- the back of the slacp
- the new uerdcerop
- keep growing naluatlry
- did not give a atmefemri
- be omlarcecmli available
- what people want ocsamelcytil
- egniegiernr solutions
- rieegdn hairlines
- Inuovsreitoie (UK) / rniieeozolut (USA) hair-loss

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. b	9. g	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Wig / Toupee

You think a wig or toupee is the best solution for baldness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): being clean shaven, a hair transplant or leaving it as it is.

### Role B – Clean shaven

You think being clean shaven is the best solution for baldness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a wig or toupee, a hair transplant or leaving it as it is.

### Role C – Transplant

You think a hair transplant is the best solution for baldness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): being clean shaven, a wig or toupee or leaving it as it is.

### Role D – Leaving it as it is

You think leaving it as it is is the best solution for baldness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): being clean shaven, a hair transplant or a wig or toupee.

## Speaking - Hairstyles

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| • straight        | • curly    |
| • closely cropped | • shaved   |
| • very long       | • punk     |
| • wavy            | • ponytail |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.