

ISHRS Patient Questions Card

The questions the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery tells every patient to ask before booking a hair transplant — anywhere, not just overseas.

Use this for the **Turkey & Overseas Clinics** objection: don't argue price, hand the caller these questions and let the credential gap speak for itself. Source: ISHRS Patient Resources & Consumer Guidance (ishrs.org).

Training & Credentials

Confirms an actual physician, not a technician

- What medical degree does the physician hold (M.D., D.O., or M.B.B.S.), and from what institution?
- When and where was the physician licensed to practice medicine?
- Where did they complete internship and residency training?
- Did they complete additional subspecialty training after residency?
- Are they board certified by ABHRS or IBHRS — the only two certifications ISHRS recognizes?
- Do they hold ISHRS membership, attend scientific conferences, or serve in leadership roles?

Experience

Volume and focus, not just years in practice

- How long has the physician been doing surgical hair restoration?
- How many total procedures have they performed — and how many of the specific type being considered?
- How many hair restoration procedures do they currently perform per month?
- Is hair restoration their sole or primary practice, or one of many cosmetic services offered?

Who Will Actually Perform the Surgery

The most consumer-protective question cluster — ask this one directly

- Who will be involved in performing the surgery, and what role will each person play?
- Is everyone involved covered by malpractice insurance?
- Will the physician personally perform donor harvesting, hairline design, and recipient site creation — or will a technician?

WHY THIS MATTERS

ISHRS has documented clinics — particularly overseas — where a single licensed "token" doctor satisfies appearances while unlicensed technicians perform the actual extraction and placement. Unlicensed technicians cannot make diagnostic decisions during surgery or manage adverse reactions, and hair loss itself can be a sign of underlying systemic disease that only a physician is trained to catch.

Red Flags in Advertising

Claims ISHRS explicitly tells consumers to treat with skepticism

CLAIM	REALITY
"Scarless surgery"	No such thing — any incision beyond the most superficial skin depth creates scar tissue, in both FUT and FUE.
"Fully robotic / machine procedure"	No machine performs all aspects of the surgery automatically. Technology assists a trained surgeon; it doesn't replace one.
"Guaranteed results"	Results are individual, based on donor density and scalp anatomy. Guarantees are a red flag.
Unusually low cost	Often a signal of a technician-run clinic with minimal physician oversight.
Heavy emphasis on graft volume	High graft counts don't correlate with better outcomes without proper surgical planning and physician evaluation.

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