

# Women like hair transplants, too

**IAN ROBERTSON**

Sun Media

Move over men, more women are signing up for hair-raising procedures, a report by the leading transplant association says.

A International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery study shows a 42% increase in transplants since 2005.

"Technical and artistic advances have dramatically changed hair transplants over the past decade, making them virtually undetectable," Dr. Cam Simmons, medical director of the Canadian Transplant Centre at Yonge St. and York Mills Rd., said yesterday after releasing the society's report.

Simmons, who has had several procedures to improve his hair density, began doing hair transplants in 1999, 14 years after graduating medical school.

"The ratio of men to women was about 9-to-1 when I started," he said.

"More women are now getting transplants, about

6.3-to-1."

Women pursue a wide variety of beauty treatments, but Simmons said the biggest cosmetic procedure sought by men is a thicker thatch.

"I don't aim to make everybody look like a teenager or look like they have a wig on, but ... having hair can make men look 10 years younger," he said.

Expensive and time-consuming from 1959 to the early 1990s, Simmons said "hair transplantation has come a long way in the last 15 years."

Since his first in 1989, when plugs from the sides and back of the head were planted in balding pates, micro-surgery and the use of healthy follicles in skin grafts has dramatically reduced the time needed for a procedure to a day or two.

A transfer of 1,000 follicles costs \$2,500 plus GST at his clinic, Simmons said. "Some really bald people may want 4,500 grafts to get decent coverage," but the average is 3,000.