

# Skin & Allergy News

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## Dermatologic Surgery

FIVE COMMON PATTERNS SEEN

### Follow Hair Whorl to Build Better Transplant Density

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CHICAGO — Paying attention to the hair whorl in hair transplantation pays off.

Identify the pattern of the central whorl of a patient's hair, and follow its direction to create a denser look, Dr. Craig Ziering said at the annual meeting of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery.

Dr. Ziering has developed a classification system to standardize terminology and identify the most common patterns of whorls. Five patterns emerged after an examination of whorls on 534 patients.

"The definition of a whorl is hairs that rotate around an axis," said Dr. Ziering, who is in private practice in the New York City area.

The investigators found an S and a Z pattern, where the center of the whorl could be on the left, right, or in the middle.

Other discernible patterns were double SZ, double S, and a diffusion pattern.

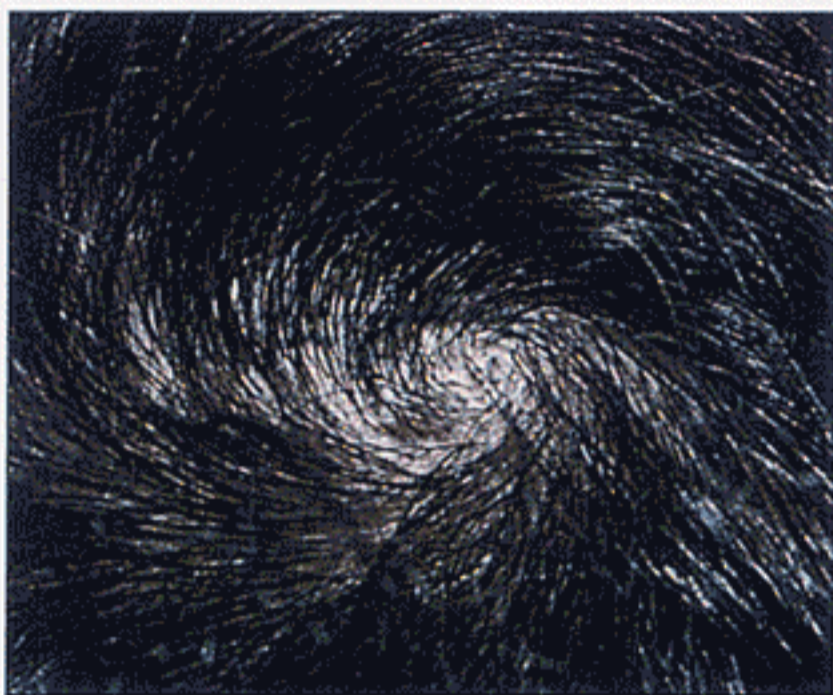
To find the whorl, look at the back of a patient's head where the hair pattern rotates as it exits the scalp in a circular pattern; that's the center point, Dr. Ziering said.

The S is the most common whorl pattern among white men, the diffusion pattern is most common among African American men, and the Z pattern is seen most frequently among Asian men.

Women tend to have a diffusion pattern regardless of their race. If there is a visible whorl in a female

patient, however, it will probably be an S pattern.

The location of the center point of a whorl varies with the type. Transplant starting on the right side of an S whorl if the exact center is tough to find and follow, but start in the middle of a Z-pattern whorl for best results. ■



Follow the S pattern, the most common whorl among white men, to create a denser look.



A diffusion pattern is most common among African American men and women of all races.

PHOTO COURTESY DR. GABRIEL KRUEGER