

Restoring Hair and Hope for Burn Victims...



EDINA – 11-year-old Ashley Stewart is a burn victim. She's lived most of her life with a bald spot on her head. When Ashley was two, she pulled a hot pot of soup down on her head, burning her scalp.

"When I was little and looked in the mirror I didn't think anything about it, I thought that was me and that's all I was ever going to be."

As a pre-teen, school kids can be mean. "They would call me burn face or ball head. I used to cry about it but now it doesn't bother me because I know what I am," Ashley said.

Ashley is going through a procedure to restore the growth of her hair, which is very rare for someone of this age to go through. Dr. Robert Reese is the hair restoration surgeon taking on Ashley's case.



"Ashley's situation was particularly challenging because the blood supply to her scalp had been compromised so severely by her burn injury," said Dr. Reese. The reconstruction starts by taking tissue from the non-burned area and transplanting each follicle on the new hair line.

But the key is the low-level laser therapy that is placed on the patient's scalp. The laser stimulates and improves the blood circulation to the scalp. The follicles will then have a better likelihood of growing hair.



Dr. Reese also says that he would have expected 50% of the hair follicles he transplanted into the burned area to fall out, but with the help of the laser hair therapy treatments 95% of the new follicles are staying in.

It's been two months, and Ashley's already growing baby-fine hair.

"I just want to let the burn victims out there know there's hope there's newer technologies," said Dr. Reese.

Dr. Reese is just one of the doctors in the country restoring hair for burn victims. Reese Hair Restoration is located in Edina and can be reached at (952) 922-HAIR or <http://www.reesehair.com>.