

COMB OVERS

BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester on air question.: Why do some men cover their balding heads with a comb over?

Years ago, it was not uncommon to see some older men with their hair dragged over the top of their balding heads. The main reason that men had 'comb overs' was to disguise their thinning or balding heads. When looking at the head from the front in a mirror, this gave them the appearance of a fuller head of hair.

When I first worked in hairdressing in the 1970s, it was not unusual for men to come in for haircuts, requesting that I not cut off the long hairs on one side of the head which they wished to comb across.

There are still some men who still dress their hair in this way. When the long hair is in place they use a dressing aid such as hairspray, gels or waxes. If the hair is not helped to remain in place with a dressing aid, then the long hair will be uncontrollable and will fall down to reveal the balding section. There are also many different concealing products that can help to disguise the bald patch. These concealers are coloured fibres, coloured hair sprays, mousses and wax pencils.

Nowadays, the term 'comb over' does not necessarily refer to a cover up of a bald patch. It is used more widely than in the past for any hair style involving a parting where hair has to be 'combed over' from the left or right side of the head.

If you are concerned about any of the issues raised above regarding hair loss, then you should seek a consultation with a registered Trichologist.

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