

Experts in Skin & Hair

Tricopat Treatment

What is tricopat?

Tricopat is a new machine for the treatment of various hair loss disorders that involves creating microinjuries on the scalp, combined with acoustic pressure wave technology, electrostimulation and synthetic growth factors to drive the hair cycle and cause hair growth.

What are the indications for tricopat:

1. **Hair shedding:** Tricopat is particularly useful for patients with acute and chronic hair shedding where a course of four treatments at monthly intervals usually leads to resolution of the problem.
2. **Hair thinning:** Tricopat is useful for male and female pattern hair thinning where the combination treatment and use of synthetic growth factors can drive the hair cycle, preventing further loss and stimulating thickening of the hair. This may be used initially on a monthly basis for several months and maintained every three to six months as a long-term treatment or in support of medical therapies.
3. **Drug delivery of anti-inflammatories:** Tricopat can also be used for a needleless, painless delivery of medications such as triamcinolone steroid as an anti-inflammatory for various scalp and hair loss conditions where the body is attacking the hair or causing inflammation in the scalp.

Who is it useful for?

Tricopat is particularly useful for patients with hair shedding or hair thinning and can be used as a supportive treatment for traditional medical therapies or in place of them.

What does the process involve?

Tricopat is a two-stage procedure:

Stage 1:

The first stage involves creating microinjuries and is known as the patting technique. This is painless and feels like someone tapping on the top of the head. Multiple very shallow 0.25 mm injuries are created over the scalp using the device and a glide gel composed of synthetic growth factors. This stage also involves the use of acoustic pressure waves, which open up superficial blood vessels to allow the penetration of the synthetic growth factors.

Stage 2: The second stage of the procedure involves electrostimulation and an electrical current called iontophoresis. This drives the synthetic growth factor gel through the microinjuries that were created in part one so that they can have a biological effect and drive the hair cycle, pushing hairs to grow more. This stage involves further acoustic pressure wave and red light to open up the blood vessels and increase blood flow.

How often does it need to be repeated?

Tricopat is usually repeated every four weeks initially for a course of three or four treatments for hair shedding. A course of treatments may be sufficient to switch off the hair shedding and to get the hairs back into the growing part of the hair cycle. In long-term conditions like hair thinning, there is usually an initial period of monthly treatments for three or four months, followed by intermittent treatments every three to six months.

Does it hurt?

Tricopat is a painless treatment. It feels like someone tapping on the top of the head, and some patients find this quite relaxing. It is also a bloodless treatment and does not involve any visible needles for those that have needle phobia.



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What are the potential side effects?

Tricopat could potentially cause some scalp sensitivity if this is a pre-existing problem, but it can also soothe any hair-related pain that can be associated with hair shedding known as trichodynia. Occasionally, patients can experience a headache after treatment, but this is very unusual. It would be very atypical for this to cause any bruising or swelling that is more typically seen in other procedures like PRP.

How does it compare to other physical therapies like PRP or Microneedling?

In comparison to other physical therapies, Tricopat is a painless and bloodless procedure. It does not require your blood being drawn or the use of needles or anaesthetic. PRP involves your blood being taken and creating a platelet-rich part that is full of natural growth factors. Tricopat uses biologically similar growth factors, but these are synthetic. The synthetic glide gel contains six growth factors that are “pro” growth rather than the soup of growth factors found in PRP, some of which help growth and others that may hinder it. Microneedling involves a device creating multiple injuries of varying depth to stimulate hair growth. When the device is used at depths more than 1 mm, which is typical to stimulate hair growth, this can be painful and cause bleeding. PRP and Microneedling can be uncomfortable and require a local anaesthetic injection to numb the scalp. They can be associated with more pain after the procedure, bruising and swelling.

How do I find out more and whether this is suitable for me?

It is best to consult with a dermatologist or hair specialist who has experience with Tricopat and other physical therapies to discuss whether this may be a treatment suitable for your hair loss condition. This is best achieved with a routine baseline hair assessment appointment where the pros and cons of this procedure can be discussed with you.

