Scientists 'close' to cure for baldness

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Scientists say they believe they are close to finding a cure for baldness. This is welcome news for millions of people worldwide who are losing their hair or who are bald. Researchers from a medical institute in California have been working on developing stem cells that can regenerate hair growth. The scientists say their technique has been successful in implanting and developing fresh growth in a way that replicates natural hair reproduction. Researcher Alexey Terskikh said: "Our new protocol overcomes key technological challenges....Now we have a robust, highly controlled method for generating natural-looking hair that grows through the skin using an unlimited source of human stem cells."

Baldness affects approximately half of men worldwide by the age of 50. Products for hair replacement and hair transplants have developed into a multi-billion-dollar global industry. Hair transplant surgery can cost up to $50,000. Scientists have been working on finding a cure for decades. The process of hair loss usually begins in men when they are in their early twenties or thirties. This can lead to anxiety and a loss of self-confidence. Many men worry about receding hairlines, bald spots and baldness. Baldness is also a problem for women. Many women suffer from thinning hair later in life. A doctor said: "Hair loss profoundly affects many people's lives."

Sources: *independent.co.uk / yahoo.com / sky.com*

Writing

We should all be bald to have more time and money. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / cure / baldness / worldwide / stem cells / hair growth / challenges / skin / worldwide / industry / decades / process / worry / bald spots / thinning hair / doctor

True / False

a) The article said the possible cure is welcome news for bald people. T / F

b) Researchers from a university in London are behind the cure. T / F

c) The new cure does not replicate natural hair reproduction. T / F

d) The cure is not any making use whatsoever of stem cells. T / F

e) The article said about 50% of men suffer from baldness by the age of 50. T / F

f) It costs an average of $50,000 for a hair transplant. T / F

g) The article says the balding process starts in men in their early 20s. T / F

h) The article says many women suffer from thinning hair later in their life. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**finding**	a.	in the region of
2.	**regenerate**	b.	patches
3.	**fresh**	c.	inexhaustible
4.	**robust**	d.	worry
5.	**unlimited**	e.	revitalize
6.	**approximately**	f.	extremely
7.	**cure**	g.	discovering
8.	**anxiety**	h.	remedy
9.	**spots**	i.	new
10.	**profoundly**	j.	strong

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) Why does baldness affect mainly men?

c) What do you think of men in their late teens going bald?

d) What advice would you give bald men suffering from anxiety?

e) How does 'hair loss profoundly affect many people's lives'?

f) Would the world be different if no one was bald?

g) How does baldness affect women differently?

h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

1. This is welcome news for
2. in a way that replicates natural hair
3. Our new protocol overcomes key
4. highly controlled method for generating
5. using an unlimited source
6. Baldness affects approximately
7. developed into a multi-billion-
8. Hair transplant surgery can
9. begins in men when they are
10. Hair loss profoundly

a. cost up to $50,000
b. natural-looking hair
c. affects many people's lives
d. dollar global industry
e. technological challenges
f. in their early twenties
g. millions of people
h. of human stem cells
i. half of men worldwide
j. reproduction

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about baldness?
b) Is baldness a problem?
c) Why do people lose their hair?
d) Why has there not been a cure before?
e) How would you feel about going bald?
f) What are the good things about baldness?
g) How attached are you to your hair?
h) Do bald men or bald women look best?

Spelling

1. a medical tetinisut in California
2. a way that tilespeacr natural hair
3. Our new tcpolroo
4. a ubostr, highly controlled method
5. grneiengta natural-looking hair
6. an unlimited srecuo of human stem cells
7. trpxapoaiymle half of men
8. hair asnraplstnt
9. yugrser can cost up to $50,000
10. This can lead to nxayeti
11. men worry about icerdneg hairlines
12. Hair loss fndouyrpol affects many people's lives

Role Play

Role A – Balding
You think balding is the worst problem of ageing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): wrinkles, a bad back or memory loss.

Role B – Wrinkles
You think wrinkles is the worst problem of ageing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): balding, a bad back or memory loss.

Role C – Bad Back
You think a bad back is the worst problem of ageing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): wrinkles, balding or memory loss.

Role D – Memory Loss
You think memory loss is the worst problem of ageing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the most manageable of these (and why): wrinkles, a bad back or balding.

Speaking – Ageing

Rank these with your partner. Put the least desirable of these "age" problems at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- balding
- wrinkles
- weigh
- bad back
- poor eyesight
- bad knees
- memory loss
- lack of strength

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. h	8. d	9. b	10. f

Answers – True False

a T	b F	c F	d F	e T	f F	g T	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.