

Scalp Preparation Protocols for Topical Hair Rejuvenation Treatments

By Cindy J. Papp, Contributing Editor

Today's topical treatments for hair rejuvenation include science-driven technologies designed to promote scalp health and target the causes of hair thinning and loss. To get the most out of these products, providers employ scalp preparation protocols designed to significantly improve regenerative outcomes and maximize the benefits of these advanced ingredients.

Biomimetic growth factors in KeraFactor® (SkinQri; Lincolnshire, Ill.) are responsible for delivering stronger, healthier-looking hair, according to dermatologist Jessica Weiser, MD, founder of Weiser Skin MD (New York, N.Y.). "Follistatin enhances the anagen 'growth' phase of the hair cycle, polydeoxyribonucleotide promotes cellular regeneration and healing and nanofluorosome technology provides both anti-inflammatory and anti-androgen benefits at the hair follicle level," she reported.

Dr. Weiser uses a low-energy, nonablative laser to create microchannels in the scalp before applying KeraFactorMD®, a serum formulated to enhance scalp health using growth factors, peptides and specialized ingredients. "Hair is separated at 1cm intervals and laser is performed in lines on the scalp from the frontal hairline back to the vertex," she explained.

"Once the laser treatment is complete, the KeraFactorMD serum is evenly applied to all of the lased scalp using the duckbill applicator and massaged into the scalp," continued Dr. Weiser. "The nanofluorosomes are then activated using a red LED light for approximately 10 to 12 minutes."

Mira Kaga, MD, founder of The Kaga Institute (East Brunswick, N.J.), instructs her patients to begin their protocol at home with a ketoconazole-based shampoo to help reduce inflammation and sebum buildup. "This step is essential for reducing DHT-related miniaturization," she reported. "Additionally, we prescribe a topical retinoid (such as tretinoin or retinaldehyde) applied to the scalp several times per week. This is a game-changer: by promoting mild exfoliation and improving cell turnover, the retinoid enhances transdermal delivery of KeraFactor's active ingredients."

In Dr. Kaga's office, they use a nonablative fractional 1540nm laser to create controlled microscopic thermal zones in the scalp. "This not only stimulates tissue remodeling and vascularity but also enhances transdermal absorption of the topically applied KeraFactorMD." Her patients report less shedding within the first few weeks, she added, followed by the emergence of finer hair around the hairline and part lines within the first 8 to 12 weeks of consistent treatment.

Board-certified cosmetic dermatologist and founder of Soho Skin and Hair Restoration (New York, N.Y.), Robert Finney, MD, explained that KeraFactorMD's biomimetic approach removes patient-to-patient variability and eliminates the need for needles or blood. He also prefers microneedling as part of his hair restoration protocols. "It stimulates a natural wound-healing cascade, triggering the body's own release of growth factors," he shared. "I then have patients sit under a red-light panel post-treatment, which further boosts performance."

Dr. Finney uses KeraFactorMD to treat genetic hair loss but has also had success in treating telogen effluvium and traction alopecia. "Many patients come in with damage from styling, hair extensions or chemical treatments, and this serum has proven effective in jumpstarting recovery and supporting healthier, more resilient hair. It delivers a consistent, targeted and non-invasive alternative that represents a true evolution in regenerative hair science," he concluded.



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Before and four weeks after three treatments with 1540nm glass laser followed by KeraFactorMD serum
Photos courtesy of Mira Kaga, MD