TrichoScan
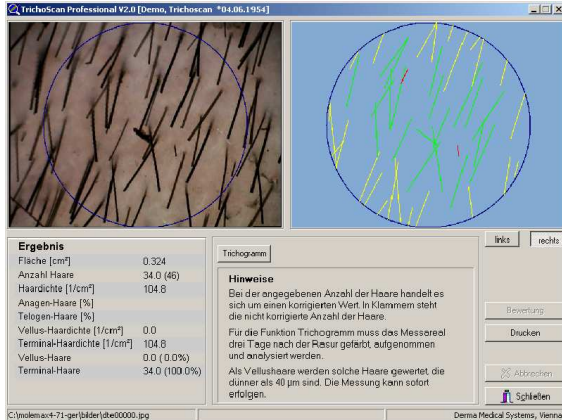## - …..making hair growth measurable

Hair loss or hair thinning is a common complaint in clinical dermatology, and patients seeking advice for hair loss are not necessarily bald. Also the effects of treatment are hard to measure. Consequently, there is a need for a sensitive tool to monitor hair loss and treatment response. Such a method must be able to analyze the biological parameters of hair growth, they are:
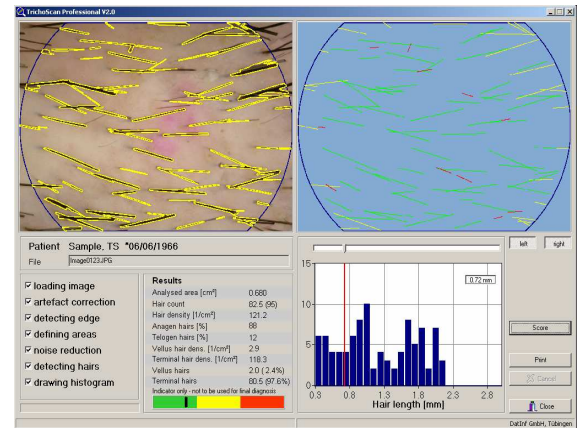
1. hair density (n/cm2)
2. hair diameter (µm)
3. hair growth rate (mm/day)
4. anagen/telogen ratio.

TrichoScan can be viewed as a modification of the classic trichogramm. The software quantifies the number of hairs and the anagen-telogen ratio within one operation.

The use of TrichoScan initially involves shaving a scalp area. After three days, the hairs in the shaven area are dyed and a digital photograph is taken at 30- time magnification and saved. The TrichoScan Software works on the basis that anagen hairs do not grow. The software uses this as a basis for its calculation of the anagen – telogon ratio.

The area to be shaved is chosen using the same criteria as for epilation with the classic trichogramm technique.

Images taken sequentially, i.e. before and after therapy, allow detailed conclusions to be made about the success or failure of a therapeutic approach. The advantages of this method lie in it simple and speedy photographic processing, the painlessness of the procedure and the reproducibility of the results.

The specially developed software program TrichoScan allows you to automatically measure of the above described parameters in situating the images taken with the MoleMax DELM camera. For the automatic analysis with TrichoScan a certain hair area needs to be shaved (appr. 1,8 cm2), dyed and digitally documented at a 30 time magnification. In contrast to the traditional Trichogram, TrichoScan is painless, reproducible and allows a digital documentation. It enables to compare different capacities of hair growth promoting substances (anagen/telogon) and can be used for monitoring the treatment through MoleMax.

The TrichoScan program package is available on all MoleMax systems 7.0 and on the DermDOC as add on module or for later installation.

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