NEWS LESSON

The Bandages You See at Istanbul Airport



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would you travel abroad for a service that cost less?
2. What makes you trust a clinic's before-and-after photos?
3. How much should appearance matter in how someone feels about themselves?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**transplant**	☐	A	the tiny parts of the skin that hair grows from
2	**follicles**	☐	B	marks left on the skin after a cut or an operation
3	**hairline**	☐	C	a medical treatment or operation
4	**procedure**	☐	D	the edge of the hair on your forehead
5	**scarring**	☐	E	a doctor who knows a lot about one thing
6	**specialist**	☐	F	what you think or hope will happen
7	**disappointing**	☐	G	an operation that moves something, such as hair, to a new place
8	**expectations**	☐	H	not as good as you hoped

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

People fly to Turkey because the treatment costs far less. But if a problem appears three weeks later, the clinic is in another country.

1 At Istanbul's airport, you may see travellers wearing special bandages around their heads. Some of them have just had a hair transplant and are flying home. They are part of a large group of visitors who come to Turkey for treatment that can help hair grow in areas where it has been lost.

2 A hair transplant is surgery, not a haircut. A specialist moves small groups of hair follicles from one part of the head to another. The aim is to create a natural-looking hairline, or to add hair to an area that has become thin. Results take months to appear, and the treatment does not work in the same way for everyone.

3 Many people choose Turkey because treatment can cost much less than in countries such as Britain or the United States. Some clinics offer packages that include the hotel and the transport from the airport. Istanbul is also easy to reach by plane from many parts of Europe and beyond, so a patient can fly out, have the procedure and be home again within a few days. That does not mean the recovery is over.

4 But a low price does not always mean a good choice. A hair transplant can involve pain, infection, scarring or disappointing results. Patients need to find out who will carry out the procedure, what qualifications that person has and what help will be available once they get home. If a problem appears three weeks later, the clinic is in another country.

5 It is worth shopping around and taking time over the decision instead of booking the first offer you see. A good clinic explains what the treatment can and cannot do, and gives realistic answers rather than promises.

6 The popularity of transplants is also connected to appearance. Some people feel embarrassed when they lose their hair, especially when they compare themselves with photographs online. Others are perfectly comfortable being bald and have no interest in treatment at all. There is no single correct decision.

7 Istanbul's hair-transplant industry shows how beauty, medicine and tourism are becoming connected. The most important question may not be whether people should change their appearance. It may be how they can make up their minds safely, with realistic expectations, and without feeling pushed into it by other people's opinions.

Sources: The Guardian. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Some clinics offer packages that include the hotel. T F NG
2. The treatment works the same way for everyone. T F NG
3. Hair taken from one part of the head can be placed on another part. T F NG
4. Most patients come from Britain. T F NG
5. The text says that the results of a transplant appear within a few days. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

appearance	decision	infection	packages	promises	qualifications	recovery

1. A good surgeon will show you their _____ before you agree to the operation.
2. The seller made a lot of big _____ , but the product did not work.
3. After the operation, a full _____ can take several weeks, so do not plan a busy month.
4. The cut became red and painful because of an _____ .
5. Many travel companies sell holiday _____ that include flights and a hotel.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. At Istanbul's airport, you may see travellers _____ bandages. (WEAR)
2. A specialist _____ small groups of hair follicles. (MOVE)
3. Istanbul is easy _____ by plane from many parts of Europe. (REACH)
4. Some of them have just _____ a hair transplant. (HAVE)
5. If a problem _____ three weeks later, the clinic is in another country. (APPEAR)

7 Language focus: phrasal verbs

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. A phrasal verb is a verb plus a small word. The small word changes the meaning, so learn the two words together.

after	along	back	down	off	through	up

1. It took her a long time to make _____ her mind about the surgery.
2. After the operation, a nurse will look _____ you for a few days.
3. The doctor will take the bandage _____ on Friday.
4. Patients must go _____ several health checks before the operation.
5. He did not like the result, so he asked the clinic to give him his money _____ .

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. What would you want to know beyond the headline price?
2. When does a cosmetic choice become pressure to look a certain way?
3. Should the support after a procedure matter as much as the procedure itself?

9 Role-play: is the cheap package worth it?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the friend

Your friend wants to fly to Istanbul for a hair transplant because it's much cheaper. You're worried. Ask about the clinic, the surgeon and the help after the operation. Say what you'd do.

Student B · the traveller

You've found a cheap package in Istanbul with a hotel and airport transfers. You want to book it this week. Explain why it's a good deal and answer your friend's worries.

Useful phrases

I've found a much cheaper package in Istanbul.

What happens if something goes wrong when I'm home?

Have you checked the surgeon's qualifications?

I'd feel safer if we shopped around first.

I'm not trying to push you into it.

Could we compromise and wait a month?

Afterwards, tell the class: did the traveller decide to book, wait or look for another clinic?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 G · 2 A · 3 D · 4 C · 5 B · 6 E · 7 H · 8 F

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 T · 4 NG · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 qualifications · 2 promises · 3 recovery · 4 infection · 5 packages

6 Verb forms

1 wearing · 2 moves · 3 to reach · 4 had · 5 appears

7 Language focus

1 up · 2 after · 3 off · 4 through · 5 back

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