

Women go under the knife for bushier brows



Strong brows: Cara Delevingne

ONCE the preserve of WAGs and reality TV stars, the 'Scouse brow' spread like wildfire after the Duchess of Cambridge modelled the darker, bushier style... and fashion-conscious women everywhere put down their tweezers.

But for many, leaving things to nature didn't offer a quick enough fix.

After years of over-plucking, women are now going to desperate lengths to bring back their eyebrows.

Plastic surgeons report a surge in the numbers requesting transplants to thicken out their sparse, pencilled-in brows.

The British Association of Plastic Surgeons said transplanting hairs from the head to the eyebrows is increasingly popular.

The procedure, which costs around £3,000 per side and can take four hours, involves implanting up to 200 individual hair follicles

By **Liz Hull**

under local anaesthetic. Dr Raghu Reddy, a hair restoration expert, said: 'We have witnessed interest grow since around the time of the Royal Wedding. Now we have a healthy stream of women who come in. There is also greater awareness now.'

'While I do have patients who have over-plucked, I also have women who come in with perfectly normal eyebrows who are looking for a thicker, fuller brow to rival the likes of Kate Middleton.'

The 'Scouse brow' trend was sparked by the stars of E4's Liverpool-based reality TV show, *Desperate Scousewives*, as well as Merseyside WAGs Alex Curran and Coleen Rooney.

Celebrities who have opted for a fuller look include model Cara Delevingne and actresses

Natalie Portman and Keira Knightley. Claire Culverwell, 30, spent £3,500 to change her brows after plucking for 14 years. The dental technician, from Manchester, said: 'It was fashionable when I was a teenager. I wanted to look like the celebrities. I carried on doing it over many years with tweezers and ended up permanently damaging my brows.'

'A hair follicle only has a finite number of cycles of growth and if you pluck it too many times, you end up killing it off.'

'I realised I had brought this on myself and I was a little embarrassed to seek treatment.'

Miss Culverwell had an inch-long strip of hair taken from the back of her head.

Each of the 400 to 500 hairs was separated under a microscope and individually transplanted into small holes in the eyebrows using a fine needle. 'It boosted my confidence,' she said. 'It was worth every penny.'