

Harry's bald patch, inset, is beginning to resemble his brother's

Start polishing your crown, hair-loss Harry



Kate Mansey

FOR years, he has delighted in teasing his older brother about his hair loss. Now Prince Harry is facing the bald truth that his ginger locks are also thinning.

Trichologists who have examined photographs taken during his recent trip to America have concluded that Harry is succumbing to genetic male pattern baldness and predict he will suffer significant hair loss before he turns 50.

The good news for Harry, however, is that he is still well behind his brother William, who is expected to be completely bald before he is 40.

Jonny Harris, a hair loss expert and managing director of the Belgravia Centre, says Harry appears to have dihydrotestosterone, a type of testosterone that causes hair loss on the head while encouraging the growth of body hair.

"Harry may have very thin hair by the time he is 50. Prince William will be bald by the time he is 40, perhaps even by his

mid-thirties. It is likely to be because Harry has dihydrotestosterone. It is a type of testosterone that is present in higher volumes among some men and that can cause hair loss."

Harry rarely misses an opportunity to make fun of his brother's hair. When the first portrait featuring both princes was unveiled in 2010, he joked: "He got given more hair." On another occasion he quipped that William was "already bald aged 12".

Even Prince Charles has joined the teasing. At his son's wedding to Kate Middleton in 2011, he told guests: "The thing about growing older is that your children get taller than you, so they can see your bald spots. Now, in my case, I can see his."

While Charles did not begin to lose his hair until his late thirties, his brother Prince Edward was, like William, developing a bald patch in his mid-twenties. Prince Andrew, in contrast, still has a thick head of hair at the age of 53.

Prince Philip, Harry's grand-

father, began to lose his hair in his mid-thirties. Photographs of him playing with his children in 1955 show clear signs of his hair thinning out. Around 70% of hair loss is said to be hereditary.

On Harry's mother's side of the family, baldness has again been unpredictable. Earl Spencer, Princess Diana's brother

and Harry's uncle, has a full head of hair, but the prince's maternal grandfather, the 8th Earl Spencer, lost his hair in middle age.

Dr Asim Shahmalak, owner of Crown Clinic, in Harley Street, said thinning hair was almost inevitable for Harry.

"In the royal family, unfortunately, it is such a strong

genetic link with Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Prince William. Prince Harry is now following suit," he said.

"Harry is generally thinning out but it is more pronounced at the crown area. Sometimes it then recedes at the front. Prince Harry is not that bad at the present time, in comparison to his brother. Why are the

brothers different? It is the luck of the draw."

While many Windsor men have faced follicular challenges, they have tackled them in different ways. William has adopted the approach of his uncle Edward by cropping his hair short to minimise the appearance of baldness. Charles has opted for the comb-over, de-

spite the risk of embarrassment in a gust of wind.

Nadeem Uddin Khan, the director of the Harley Street Hair Clinic, which carried out a hair transplant on Wayne Rooney, said: "We have had twins at our clinic where one is bald and one isn't.

"Harry will lose his hair in the future, but Harry's genetic pat-

tern is more on his mother's side so he has got a little bit more time. He should party as much as he wants because it will all catch up with him.

"I don't know why the royals haven't come forward for treatment. I think they should just have it done. It's pretty straightforward and, after all, they can afford it."