



HAIR DISORDERS

A NEW CLASSIFICATION FOR ALOPECIA AREATA BASED ON THE SUBTYPE AND EXTENT OF HAIR LOSS FROM BOTH SCALP AND EXTRA-SCALP LESIONS: LEE CLASSIFICATION

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Introduction: Alopecia areata (AA) can manifest various features, some of which are known to be associated with disease prognosis. Previous classifications for AA are limited in assessing various disease features.

Objective: We aimed to identify the disease factors associated with treatment response (TR) and to devise a novel classification including these factors.

Material and Methods: Among the patients with AA attending the outpatient clinic in department of dermatology, Wonju Severance Christian Hospital between 2010 and 2017, patients whose progression of disease could be monitored with clinical photographs were included. We retrospectively assessed the correlation between the TR and the disease-related factors, including the pattern and extent of scalp lesions, and the distribution and extent of extra-scalp lesions. The pattern of scalp lesion was classified into patchy AA (AP), ophiasis pattern (OA), sisaipho pattern (AS), diffuse pattern (AD), and reticular pattern (AR). The sites of extra-scalp lesions were described as eyebrow (E), eyelash (L), mustache (M), beard (B), axillary (A), pubic (P), and other sites (O). The extent of hair loss is divided into 6 grades.

Results: Among the total 502 patients with alopecia areata, 94 patients were included. There was a significant difference in TR according to the patterns of the scalp lesions. TR was poorer for the scalp and extra-scalp lesions with increasing extent of lesions. The maximum extent of hair loss was the most appropriate when evaluating the TR. We developed a new classification named as LEE classification based on the pattern and extent of scalp hair lesion and the affected body site and their extent.

Conclusion: LEE classification enables physicians to classify and more precisely record the condition of patients with AA and could enhance communications among physicians. And components of LEE classification reflect different TR.

