



HAIR DISORDERS

ACNE KELOIDALIS NUCHAE AND FOLLICULITIS DECALVANS: DIFFERENT DISEASES OR SPECTRUM OF THE SAME PROCESS AFFECTING THE HAIR FOLLICLE?

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Background: Acne keloidalis nuchae (AKN) is a chronic inflammatory condition of the follicles of the occiput and nape areas resulting in alopecia and keloid formation. Folliculitis decalvans (FD) is a scarring alopecia affecting primarily the vertex scalp and occasionally, the occipital region. AKN is a mixt scarring alopecia, consisting of both lymphocytes and neutrophils inflammatory cells, while FD is a predominantly neutrophilic inflammation. The aim of this study was to perform a descriptive and retrospective analysis in a tertiary care hospital in Brazil in the last 2 years to evaluate the co-existence of FD and AKN.

Observation: Fifty seven patients clinically diagnosed with AKN, age ranged from 31 to 74 years old were included in the study. Associated FD was found in 21 % of the AKN patients (n=12) and the diagnosis was confirmed by histopathology. Eight patients (75%) had VI or higher phototypes. Seven patients referred close shave over the affected occipital area and 4 frequent use of helmets or hats. The mean interval between both diseases was 3,91 years, with AKN preceding FD in 58% (n=7) of the cases.

Key message: Although FD may be an epiphenomenon in patients with AKN, the association of FD and AKN in 21% of our patients suggests that both diseases may share the same pathomechanism. Also, the presence of AKN lesions could be a risk factor for the development of FD in the future, especially in patients with higher skin types. Based on these findings, the authors suggest that patients with AKN should be periodically screened for FD lesions.

