



HAIR DISORDERS

ALOPECIA AREATA IN INFANCY: ABOUT A RARE CASE

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Background: Alopecia areata is a chronic autoimmune disease of uncertain pathophysiology. It is the most frequent cause of alopecia in children but it is exceptional in the neonatal period and in infancy, hence the interest of our case report.

Observation: We report a case of a 14-year-old girl, with no significant pathological history except a similar case in a paternal aunt. Who consulted for total loss of body hair occurring 40 days after birth, for which she has been treated without any improvement. Dermatological and dermoscopic examination confirmed the diagnosis of universal alopecia areata. Laboratory tests were normal except a moderate anemia. Mini-pulses of oral corticosteroids with minoxidil and iron supplementation were introduced. A slight regrowth of hair on the frontal edge was noted after 6 months follow-up.

Key message: Alopecia areata is the most common cause of alopecia in children. It can occur at any age, but only in 11 to 23.9% of cases before 16 years. Our patient presents a universal alopecia areata of the infancy, which is exceptional and whose origin remains debatable: congenital, post-vaccination or other (infectious, medicinal ...). After elimination of the infectious and medicinal etiologies, our discussion remained open on the congenital or post-vaccination origin on a genetically predisposed ground. Up to now, 7 cases of congenital alopecia areata have been reported in the literature: in this case, the alopecia plate is already present at birth and the response to the treatment is variable. The post-vaccination alopecia is also exceptional and only few cases have been reported. Vaccination constitutes a triggering factor of autoimmune diseases defining a new syndrome, termed autoimmune/inflammatory syndrome induced by adjuvants.

