HAIR DISORDERS

ALOPECIA AREATA IN INFANTS LESS THAN ONE YEAR: A CASE SERIES

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Background: Alopecia areata (AA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by the sudden appearance of rounded or oval patches of hair loss in its more frequent clinical presentation. It is a common cause of acquired nonscarring hair loss in children. However, it is extremely rare in newborns and very young infants. We introduce our serie of 13 patients with the aim of describing epidemiological and clinical characteristics of AA in children under one year. A descriptive, retrospective and observational study was carried out in the Pediatric Dermatology Section of Ramos Mejía Hospital, from October 2007 until December 2017. Patients under one year of age, diagnosed with AA, were included.

Observation: Thirteen patients were included. Age at disease onset ranged from 2 to 11 months. All the patients had patchy scalp AA, and two of them associated trunk lesions. Scalp patches were single in 5 cases and multiple in the remaining 8. Just two patients were born preterm and 1 referred the antecedent of atopic dermatitis. Family history was positive in two infants for autoimmune diseases (paternal vitiligo in one case and paternal diabetes type II in another one). Diagnosis was made clinically and in two doubtful patients confirmed by biopsy. A watch and wait conduct was adopted for all the patients. Six cases resolved spontaneously, 1 had partial regrowth and 6 were lost to follow-up.

Key Messsage: Contrary to the worst prognostic associated with disease early onset, this subset of patients with precocious onset under 1 year or age may have an autolimited disease course.