

HAIR DISORDERS

## ASSOCIATION BETWEEN IGE-MEDIATED ALLERGIES AND ALOPECIA AREATA: IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL COURSES

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**Introduction:** A history of atopy (personal or family), and of atopic dermatitis (AD) in particular, has been considered one of the poor prognostic factors of alopecia areata (AA), and patients with AA who also have AD are at great risk for developing severe AA. Thus, there may be a correlation between the elevation in total serum IgE levels, allergic diseases, and the clinical course or progression of the AA.

**Objective:** We investigated whether IgE-mediated allergies would affect the clinical course of the AA.

**Materials and Methods:** A total of 290 patients with AA who measured serum IgE levels and monitored the disease progression for more than 6 months included in this study.

**Results:** More than half, 161 patients (55.5%) showed low serum total IgE levels (<100 IU/mL). High total IgE (>500 IU/mL) was recorded in 28 (9.7%) and very high total IgE (>1000 IU/mL) in 12 (4.1%) patients. There was no significant difference in the clinical course between high and low IgE groups. However, patients with very high IgE levels showed a comparatively poor prognosis than others. Seventy-seven patients (26.6%) had IgE-mediated allergies (atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, asthma). Among them, whose total IgE level higher than 500 IU/mL showed poor prognosis of AA than others.

**Conclusions:** Although IgE does not necessarily reflect the disease activity and predict the clinical course of AA, very high IgE might be an indicator of poor clinical outcome.