

HAIR DISORDERS

## ASSOCIATION OF FRONTAL FIBROSING ALOPECIA AND CONTACT ALLERGENS IN EVERYDAY SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

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Introduction: Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia (FFA) is a primary lymphocytic scarring alopecia, involving fronto-temporal hair follicles, with hairline recession and eyebrow loss. It is considered by some, a variant of lichen planopilaris; while other authors, because of its distinct clinical presentation and natural history, consider it a specific entity.

The pathophysiology remains uncertain. Over the past decade it has become increasingly common worldwide, which suggests that an environmental factor may be involved in its aetiology.

Objective: To identify possible contact allergens involved in the patophysiology of FFA.

Material and Methods: 18 patients with FFA, as well as 18 age and sex-matched controls completed a questionnaire regarding medical history, lifestyle, and everyday hygiene products. The cases and controls were patch tested using the North American standard, cosmetic, and photopatch series, 110 allergens were used.

Results: Thirty-six female patients were recruited. Mean age of FFA patients was 58.8 years, and of controls 57.1 years. Two patients with FFA were premenopausal and 88.8% postmenopausal. 83.3% (15/18) of FFA cases revealed positivity to at least one contact allergen, while 61.1% (11/18) were positive to more than one. The two most common positive allergens encountered were iodopropynyl butylcarbamate and propolis.

44.4% subjects with FFA had at least one other autoimmune mediated disease, with lichen planus pigmentosus being the most common. 77.7% of patients with FFA referred the use of sunscreen, 94.4% facial moisturizers, and 77.7% foundations.

Conclusions: Currently, no definitive conclusion regarding optimal treatment for FFA has been demonstrated. The use of sunscreens and facial leave-on products has greatly increased in recent decades, raising the question, whether their use could be involved in the pathogenesis of this entity. In our study, FFA patients had a greater prevalence of allergic contact positive reactions with current clinical relevance, though further research is required











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