HAIR DISORDERS

CONGENITAL ALOPECIA AREATA

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Background : Alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease that can occur at any age and in both sexes. Although considered a cause of acquired non-healing alopecia, rare cases of congenital alopecia areata have been reported in the literature. We report a case of alopecia areata in the neonatal period.

Observation : A 12-month-old male infant presented to our consultation with diffuse alopecia that has been evolving since birth. He was the first child of non-consanguineous parents, born at the end of a normal pregnancy. The mother reported the notion of significant psychological stress at the time of delivery as well as a postpartum thyroiditis. . The dermatological examination found non-cicatricial alopecia affecting the entire scalp, eyebrows and eyelashes. The rest of the somatic examination was without abnormalities. The diagnosis of congenital universal alopecia areata was retained. A review of the pathological associations, including thyroid and immune status, was without abnormalities. A therapeutic abstention was decided considering the age and a regular follow-up was recommended for him.

Conclusion : Alopecia areata is a non-cicatricial alopecia of autoimmune origin common in children. Nevertheless, very few cases have been described in infancy and even less in the neonatal period. Less than a dozen cases have been described to date. In this age group, the difficulty is first of all diagnostic. It is indeed essential to rule out differential diagnoses (tinea capitis, traction alopecia, triangular alopecia) in cases of alopecia areata. In diffuse cases, the causes of congenital alopecia or ectodermal dysplasias are more difficult to rule out, especially since the associated dental anomalies appear later in infancy. Therapeutic management is difficult in view of the very young age of the patients, which is furthermore considered as a pejorative prognostic factor on the evolutionary profile of the alopecia areata.