



HAIR DISORDERS

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF DIPHENYLCYCLOPROPENONE (DPCP) AND ANTHRALIN COMBINATION VS DPCP ALONE IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PATCHY ALOPECIA AREATA

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Introduction: DPCP and Anthralin, both have been used for treatment of chronic refractory alopecia areata. The reported response of DPCP in chronic refractory Alopecia areata (AA) is varying from 25% to 75%, therefore we combined DPCP and anthralin to study the possible synergistic effect of contact immunotherapy and irritant therapy.

Objectives: To study efficacy and safety of DPCP and Anthralin combination vs DPCP alone in treatment of chronic alopecia areata.

Methodology: In randomized interventional study, 70 patients of clinically diagnosed AA of more than 6 months duration were divided into two groups; Group A and B was given combination therapy and DPCP alone therapy respectively. In both groups, sensitization with 2% DPCP was done. After 2 weeks, DPCP application was done every week starting from 0.01% concentration increased gradually every 3rd visit till appearance of mild eczema, for 6 months. In group A, patients were given Dithranol for 1-10 minutes for 5 days a week. Response in terms of percentage change in SALT score and number of adverse events, was evaluated at 3 and 6 months.

Results: At the end of 6 months, moderate to good response was seen in 76.2% of the cases among Group A and 85.2% of the cases among Group B ($p=0.380$), which is not statistically significant.

Side effects observed were pruritus, enlarged lymph nodes, hyperpigmentation, depigmentation, urticaria and fever; but higher in combination group. ($p=0.012733$)

Conclusion: Combination therapy with DPCP and anthralin is not better than DPCP alone but have significantly higher rate of side effects.

