



HAIR DISORDERS

EVALUATION OF HAIR ANATOMY IN DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS IN BRAZIL

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Introduction: Nowadays, there is a considerable interest in capilar anatomy research, especially in hair structure differences of ethnic groups.

Objective: The aim of this study has been to review the current literature regarding hair; to determine capilar anatomy of the patient samples from Hospital de Clinicas and external volunteers – according to their heritage – and to compare this anatomy with literature data. It has assessed hair care, skin care and physical characteristics of each other.

Materials and methods: A specific questionnaire for this study has been used and hair samples have been collected, in a standard way, in order to assess the hair structure macroscopically and through optical microscopy. 71 volunteers took part in the study and they were grouped according to their primary ethnic standards: 41 Japanese, 27 Caucasians and 3 native Brazilians.

Results: The average volunteer age was 31,45 years. In the oriental group, the majority had straight hair (73,17%), the medulla has been found in 32 samples. The disorders in hair shaft were trichorrhexis nodosa and pili bifurcati. The cuticle was irregular/ serrated in 29 samples in the distal portion. Within Caucasian, the main heritage was Italian (33,33%). In this group, straight and wavy hair were predominant. The hair shaft disorder has been the same and included tricoptilose and triconodose. In the native group the wavy, straight and curly hair have been found.

Conclusion: This study has clearly revealed that there is no expressive difference between the descendants and their ethnic background. It is important to foster further research to compare the differences in hair anatomy among people with ethnic variations and to include additional studies with diverse groups of various sub-ethnic groups, which would give a better understanding of the ethnic variations.

