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HAIR DISORDERS

## LIPEDEMATOUS SCLAP: A CASE REPORT

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Background: Lipedematous scalp is an exceedingly rare idiopathic dermatosis characterized by diffuse thickening of the subcutaneous fat layer of the scalp without hair loss (which is present in lipedematous alopecia). In the few existing reported cases, it most frequently affects black adult women and is associated in some cases to other medical conditions including hyperlipidemia, Sjögren's syndrome, diabetes mellitus among others. Patients' scalp thickness measured by ultrasound, MRI or CT scan is usually 10 - 15mm (normal scalp thickness: 5-6mm). Histopathology reveals increase in subcutaneous tissue, edema and fatty infiltration of the dermis without associated inflammation or mucin deposition.

Observation: A 44-year-old Latin-American female patient with prior history of bronchial asthma presented with a 3-month history of trichodynia and chronic headaches associated with increased scalp volume. Upon examination she presented with diffuse, spongy, non-pitting thickening of the scalp affecting parietal, occipital and temporal regions, abruptly stopping at the frontal region. The scalp had a "cottony" texture upon palpation. No associated alopecia or relevant dermatoscopic features were noted. CT scan demonstrated a scalp thickness of 32.6mm and deep punch biopsy showed increased adipose tissue that infiltrated the reticular dermis with mild chronic inflammatory infiltrate in papillary dermis. Laboratory findings identified high HDL, with no further relevant findings to report.

Key Message: This is the first reported case of lipedematous scalp in a Latin-American female with no associated alopecia. The extreme scalp thickening (>3cm), mild inflammatory infiltrate and early diagnosis (3 months) offer valuable new information about the pathogenesis of this rare and poorly understood illness as it may suggest an early inflammatory stage that so far, has rarely been described.



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