



HAIR DISORDERS

PEMPHIGUS-ASSOCIATED ALOPECIA – A CLINICAL MARKER OF A MORE SEVERE COURSE OF PEMPHIGUS VULGARIS

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Introduction: Hair loss associated with pemphigus is considered rare with its frequency estimated at 5.4% of patients with pemphigus vulgaris. Its significance for the course and prognosis of pemphigus has not been studied in detail.

Objective: To evaluate the prevalence of pemphigus-associated alopecia in patients with pemphigus vulgaris and pemphigus foliaceus. To evaluate the clinical and immunological characteristics of patients with pemphigus-associated alopecia.

Materials and Methods: A total of 80 consecutive patients with histopathologically and immunopathologically confirmed pemphigus were included into this prospective observational study. Pemphigus-associated alopecia was observed in 11/80 (13.8%) patients with pemphigus. It was observed in 11/52 patients with pemphigus and scalp involvement, including 10/28 (35.7%) patients with pemphigus vulgaris and 1/24 (4.2%) patient with pemphigus foliaceus. As pemphigus-associated alopecia was present in only one patient with pemphigus foliaceus, to avoid bias, further comparative analyses were performed between patients with pemphigus vulgaris and with pemphigus-associated alopecia (study group; n=10) and patients with pemphigus vulgaris without pemphigus-associated alopecia (control group; n=18). The clinical and immunological characteristics of these patients were analyzed.

Results: Patients with pemphigus-associated alopecia had a significantly higher Pemphigus Disease Area Index total activity score compared to patients with no pemphigus-associated alopecia (21.8+/-18.6 and 11.0+/-20.5, respectively; p=0.02). Mean serum anti-desmoglein 1 antibody concentration was 141.8+/-66.9 U/ml and 60.0+/-52.6 U/ml, respectively (p=0.03), and mean serum anti-desmoglein 3 concentration was 126.6+/-36.7 U/ml and 67.4+/-52.5 U/ml, respectively (p=0.03). The respective values for achieving serological remission were 10% and 70% (p=0.02). [?]

Conclusions: Pemphigus-associated alopecia is a marker of a high disease severity and a treatment-resistant course of pemphigus vulgaris.

