



HAIR DISORDERS

PRESSURE ALOPECIA IN PEDIATRIC AND ADULT PATIENTS: OUR EXPERIENCE ON 12 CASES

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Introduction: Pressure alopecia (PA) is a hair loss condition caused by ischemic changes to the scalp, which typically occurs as a complication of surgery and hospitalization. It is generally transient, but may become permanent if not promptly treated.

Objective: To characterize PA, clinically and trichoscopically.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed PA patients visited in our hospital during the period 2010-2017.

Results: 12 patients were included: 6 children and 6 adults. Postoperative PA the most frequent condition (n = 8, 66.7%), followed by PA due to subcutaneous neoformations or mechanic treatments (n = 2, 16.7% each). The acute PA phase was characterized by erythema, possible ulceration, black dots and dystrophic hairs on trichoscopy. 91.7% (n = 11) of the patients healed completely, with the help of topical corticosteroids, after a mean period of 3 months. The late phase of transient PA cases showed regrowing hairs of the same lengths, yellow-brown crusts and circle hairs on trichoscopy. A 6-year-old girl developed cicatricial alopecia.

Conclusions: The diagnosis of PA can be challenging, and trichoscopy and patient's history are crucial. Circle hairs represented a favorable prognostic factor, being observed in all transient PA cases.

