HAIR DISORDERS

ROLE OF PLATELET RICH PLASMA IN ANDROGENETIC ALOPECIA: DOES IT REALLY WORK? AN INDIAN EXPERIENCE

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Introduction: Androgenetic alopecia (AGA), a hereditary and androgen dependent progressive thinning of the scalp hair in a defined pattern, is a common dermatological disorder affecting more in men and occasionally in women, with significant negative impact on their social and psychological well being.

Material/methods: Concerns about the efficacy and safety during the requisite long-term treatment of AGA with the FDA-approved oral finasteride and topical minoxidil therapy prompted the use of a newer modality of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) which has shown beneficial effect. PRP, an autologous concentration of human platelets in a small volume of plasma has a higher platelet concentration (4-7 times) above the baseline.

Results: The beneficial effects of PRP in AGA are attributed to various platelet-derived growth factors causing improvement in the function of hair follicle and promotion of hair growth.

Conclusions: This presentation examines the basic science of PRP, and it describes the current clinical applications in treatment of patterned hair loss followed by case examples illustrating results that can be achieved using the therapy. It is safe cheap and non allergic and it appears to be a useful adjuvant in the management of AGA but may not work in all cases.