



HAIR DISORDERS

TRICHOSCOPIC FINDINGS IN ALOPECIA AREATA INCOGNITA AND DIFFUSE ALOPECIA AREATA: A 5-YEAR ITALIAN STUDY.

A Alessandrini⁽¹⁾ - M Starace⁽¹⁾ - N Brandi⁽¹⁾ - F Bruni⁽¹⁾ - Bm Piraccini⁽¹⁾

Division Of Dermatology, Department Of Experimental, Diagnostic And Specialty Medicine, Bologna, Italy⁽¹⁾

Introduction: Alopecia areata is a common form of non-scarring hair loss that usually causes round patches of baldness, with a very high psychological impact. In several cases, alopecia areata is characterized by a diffuse and acute pattern of hair loss, defining alopecia areata incognita (AAI) and diffuse alopecia areata (DAA).

Objective: The aim of our study was to analyze the trichoscopic features of AAI and DAA.

Material & Methods: The study was designed including data of patients with histological diagnosis of AAI and DAA enrolled the Hair Disease Outpatient Consultations of the Dermatology Unit of the Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine (DIMES) of the University of Bologna, from April 2012 to April 2017.

Results: DAA had a greater involvement of the parietal and anterior-temporal regions while AAI manifests itself mainly in the occipital and parietal regions, and in these areas trichoscopy has to be performed. The most frequent pattern was "empty yellow dots, yellow dots with vellus hair and small hair in regrowth", but the presence of pigtail hair was very frequent and almost exclusive of AAI. In cases of diffuse alopecia areata, the finding of dystrophic hair and black dots was more frequent. The trichoscopic sign found with greater frequency in both diseases was the presence of empty yellow dots.

Conclusion: The finding of specific trichoscopy features in different scalp locations can help the physician in the diagnosis of these types of alopecia areata, and to correlate trichoscopy with the histopathological findings with a "trichoscopic- guided" biopsy.

