HAIR DISORDERS

# VIDEODERMOSCOPY AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL IN FEMALE PATTERN ALOPECIA

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Introduction: Alopecia in female pattern (AFP) is a disease characterized by a progressive process of hair miniaturization that leads to a decrease in its density in the scalp. Although the scalp biopsy has been accepted as a gold standard for its diagnosis, diagnostic techniques such as videodermoscopy allow hair shafts´ visualization and counting at high magnification without the need of an invasive procedure. We describe featured videodermoscopy pearls for AFP diagnosis.

Objective: To describe videodermoscopy features of AFP.

Materials and methods: Digital videodermoscopy (FotoFinder Trichoscale®) was performed in 23 women with a biopsy-confirmed diagnosis of AFP. In each patient, images at a 20- and 70-fold magnification were taken in the frontal and occipital area.

Results: Twenty-three women were included, with ages ranging from 22 to 71 years (average of 44 years), and with a duration of hair loss of 82 months. Smallest average thickness of hair roots has been observed in the frontal area compared to the occipital area. Pilosebaceous units with single hairs, perifollicular discoloration, and yellow dots were very frequent in the frontal area.

Conclusions: Videodermoscopy allows the identification of hair abnormalities that are characteristic of AFP. The features described in this work can assist clinicians in the evaluation of patients with AFP either with a manual dermoscope or a videodermoscope.