

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## ADULT BLACK-DOT RINGWORM CAUSED BY TRICHOPHYTON TONSURANS COMPLICATED WITH HERPES ZOSTER A CASE REPORT

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**Background:** Tinea capitis mainly occurs in children between 0 to 5 years old and only 16% is diagnosed in adults. Either tinea capitis or herpes zoster tends to occur in immunocompromised people.

**Observation:** A 53-year-old female with a history of scalp erythema, scale, and pruritus for 3 months was diagnosed as tinea capitis in other institution. She was treated with itraconazole (0.2g bid) and 2% ketoconazole lotion for two weeks, but the treatment was not satisfactory. Thus itraconazole was transferred to terbinafine (0.25g qd) for a week, but the scalp erythema extended, and bald spots appeared. A typical corkscrew hair was selected under dermatoscope for microscopic examination, which showed septate hyphae and chainlike spores inside the hair shaft. Fungal culture of infected hairs indicated trichophyton tonsurans according to morphology and microscopic characteristics, which was consistent with molecular identification results (GenBank accession number: AB220045.1). Since fungi susceptibility test showed the effectiveness of terbinafine and itraconazole, we treated the patient with terbinafine (0.25g qd), naftifine hydrochloride and ketoconazole cream (bid), and 2% ketoconazole lotion (qd). Two weeks later, new hair growth was observed, however, the patient complained paroxysmal causalgia at left head for 10 days, subsequently zonal distributed clustered tension blisters appeared and subsided soon, but the pain existed. The clinical manifestation suggested the diagnosis of herpes zoster. She recovered after 6 weeks of antifungal and 3 weeks of antiviral therapy, without relapse for 9 months after withdrawal, leaving no scar and bald, no postherpetic neuralgia occurred.

**Key message:** Dermatoscope can help select corkscrew hairs for mycological examination, and dynamically observe changes of lesions during the treatment. Incorrect means of intaking may decrease the absorption of itraconazole, leading to unsatisfied effect. This patient has a history of breast cancer and adheres to letrozole, causing the suppression of immunity.