



HAIR DISORDERS

TRICHOSCOPY OF FOLLICULITIS DECALVANS

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During the lecture, we will discuss the main trichoscopic features of folliculitis decalvans (FD). As trichoscopy correlates with disease activity, the treatment strategy may change depending on the trichoscopic features.

1. Folliculitis decalvans is the third most frequent scarring alopecia. It is typical of young adults and it usually affects the vertex. Clinically, it presents as a scarring alopecia with tufted hairs, crusts and pustules. Itching and trichodynia are frequent.

2. Trichoscopy: the trichoscopic hallmark of FD is the presence of follicular tufts (93%). Other trichoscopic findings include: peripilar casts, starburst pattern hyperplasia, yellowish tubular scaling, yellow discharge, crusting, follicular pustules, unspecific vascular pattern, white and milkyred areas and -less frequently- white dots.

3. Activity: the trichoscopic presence of follicular pustules, extent perifollicular erythema, yellow tubular scaling, yellow crusts and perifollicular hemorrhages are associated with disease activity.

4. Therapy is challenging. Oral antibiotics with anti-inflammatory properties are the most effective therapies. Photodynamic therapy may be considered in selected cases.

