HAIR DISORDERS

PATTERN FIBROSING ALOPECIA: 3 HISPANIC CASES

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Pattern fibrosing alopecia was initially described in 2000. This is an alopecia with manifestations of androgenic and cicatricial alopecia. Some authors even classify it as a variant of lichen planus pilaris. It responds adequately to antiandrogenic treatment, but it is seldomly identified by physicians.

We describe 3 cases from our trichology unit in the Dermatology Service corresponding to the first cases of mestizo descent at Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” UANL.
Two of them were men (39 and 61 years old) and a woman (69 years old) with a diagnosis by biopsy of cicatricial alopecia. Dermoscopically they had evidence of cicatricial alopecia and pattern alopecia.

Results: Our cases include 2 men and one post-menopausic woman. Dermoscopically we can observe cicatricial alopecia signs such as follicular hyperkeratosis, perifollicular erythema and androgenic alopecia signs like hair miniaturization (vellus hairs).

Conclusions: Pattern fibrosing alopecia is characterized by inflammation and fibrosis, resulting in accelerated hair loss in the central scalp of subjects, most commonly females, with underlying pattern hair loss. Because of clinical and histological similarities with lichen planopilaris (LPP), both FFA and FAPD are classified as subtypes of LPP by many authors.
In one of the series, patients median age was 59-years old and they were mostly women. The diagnoses consisted in androgenic alopecia and cicatricial alopecia as well. Symptoms reported were pruritus and a burning sensation.
These patients develop initially the androgenic and progressively the cicatricial alopecia ensues. Both diseases have a synergic effect regarding hair loss.
Differential diagnosis is made with androgenic alopecia, frontal fibrosing alopecia, follicular degeneration syndrome and pseudopelade of Broq through clinical and histologic characteristics.
These are the first three cases in Hispanic patients, we intend to awaken interest in the dermatologic community of this disease which has been recently described.