



HAIR DISORDERS

TREATING FACIAL VEINS IN LICHEN PLANOPILARIS WITH THE LONG PULSE 1064NM ND:YAG LASER

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Background: Frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA), a scarring alopecia which primarily affects postmenopausal women classically presents with a characteristic pattern of progressive frontotemporal hairline recession and eyebrow loss. Since the original report in 1994 by Kossard, additional clinical findings have been associated with FFA including prominent facial veins, facial papules, beard involvement, and glabellar red dots. The prominent facial veins are felt to be caused by atrophy of the overlying skin and subcutaneous fat and can be seen in the clinical image in the original report by Kossard. This finding has been described as an initial presenting feature of FFA and may be present prior to the use of topical or intralesional steroids. The prominent facial veins are bothersome to patients and are difficult to disguise.

Observation: We describe a 62 year old woman with longstanding FFA and prominent facial veins on the forehead, temples, and pre-auricular cheeks. She underwent one treatment with the long pulsed 1064 nm YAG (3mm spot, 160J, 40 ms, 50/20 cooling, 1.5 Hz) and had significant improvement of the size and appearance of the facial veins. Many of the small vessels were no longer visible and the larger vessels (>3 mm) were smaller in diameter. The treatment was well tolerated with minimal pain; the patient had redness and mild swelling that subsided within 24 hours.

Key Message: Long pulse 1064nm Nd:YAG laser is a safe and effective treatment option for prominent facial veins that are common in FFA.

