

References

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Association between scalp psoriasis and alopecia areata

The association between alopecia areata (AA) and psoriasis is a well known but rare condition. This association is usually reported to realize the Renbök phenomenon, or inverse Köebner phenomenon described by Happle et al (1). This phenomenon refers to normal hair growth in psoriatic plaques, observed in patients with both psoriasis and AA.

We report here a patient with a recent onset extensive AA, who also developed scalp psoriasis that does not protect against hair loss.

Case report

A 34 year-old-man presented with 9-month-history of extensive AA appearing after an incarceration, with a rapid progression. A recent photography of the patient did not show any previous abnormalities of his hair especially no androgenic alopecia and in his family history, no AA was known. One month before his referral to our department, he also developed many psoriatic plaques on the scalp. Cutaneous examination revealed extensive hair loss of the scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes, beard and moustache with some persistent hair in temporal and occipital regions. Moreover, erythematous plaques with white scales were seen in both alopecic and non alopecic areas of the scalp (Figures 1, 2). The body hair is preserved and there was no psoriatic plaque other than those of the scalp. Laboratory investigations showed no abnormalities. The patient was treated by PUVA therapy three times a week. A visible improvement was noted for psoriatic plaques after 30-session-phototherapy, whereas there was no remarkable hair growth.

Figure 1 : Coexistence of alopecia areata and plaque of psoriasis

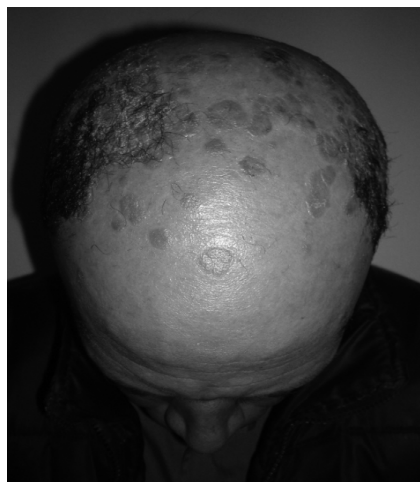


Figure 2 : Plaques of psoriasis on alopecic and non alopecic areas, illustrating Köebner phenomenon



Conclusion

Our report is an original case in that it associates two immunopathogenic and psychogenic diseases. Their coexistence illustrates probably a Köebner phenomenon other than an arbitrary coincidence with a common triggering factor.

References

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