

Perinevoid Alopecia: an Unusual Presentation of Alopecia Areata

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Case Presentation

A 19-year-old healthy male complained of sudden onset of asymptomatic single patch alopecia on the occiput for three months. The round patch of non-scarring alopecia surrounded a pre-existent pigmented dome-shaped compound nevus, which did not change over time (Figure 1). Trichoscopic features were compatible with alopecia areata (AA), and the patient decided on conservative management.

Teaching point

Perinevoid alopecia (PA) is an extremely rare variant of AA associated with a central generally pigmented nevus [1]. Although the pathogenesis is still unclear, it is thought that PA is secondary to an inflammatory response against nevus cells or melanocytic structures [1,2]. Immune cells around the nevus attack the hair follicle, similarly to the destruction of melanocytes in a halo nevus, other nevocentric phenomena [2]. Surgical removal of the nevus may lead to hair regrowth a



Figure 1. A 1-cm diameter round patch of non-scarring alopecia surrounding a pre-existent pigmented dome-shaped compound subtype nevus on the right side of the occiput.

few weeks after excision [1,2]. Recognizing PA is essential to properly manage this unique variant of AA.

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