

Appendix - *BMJ* 2010;341:c3671

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DCPC treatment regimen:

A 2% solution of DCPC in acetone is applied to a small area (approx 16 cm²) of the scalp to sensitise the patient. Two weeks later a very dilute DCPC solution (0.001%) is applied to half the scalp and left on for 24-48 hours while being protected from light (eg, with a wig or hat). The concentration of solution is then gradually increased each week until an eczematous response is elicited. The aim of therapy is to induce a low grade erythema and itch that lasts for 24-36 hours after each application. The appropriate concentration is then applied weekly until hair re-growth is observed. Treatment can then be applied to the entire scalp. Treatment is continued until a cosmetically acceptable response is achieved. If no response is seen after six months treatment should be discontinued. Side effects include cervical lymphadenopathy, severe localised skin reactions, urticaria and pigment changes (including vitiligo).^{w2} DCPC is an unlicensed treatment and should be used with caution to minimise the risk of sensitising members of the treatment team.

Dithranol treatment regimen:

Apply 0.5-1% dithranol cream to the bare patches for 20-30 minutes daily for two weeks, gradually increasing the exposure time by 10-15 minutes at 2 weekly intervals. This should continue up to 1 hour maximum total treatment per day. The aim of the treatment is to develop a low grade erythema and itch. If hair regrowth is seen the therapy would need to be continued for at least six months, and treatment tapered before stopping when acceptable regrowth is achieved. If no response is seen then the treatment should be discontinued. It is important to wash hands after each application and avoid contact with eyes. Side effects include skin irritation, folliculitis, and local lymphadenopathy, as well as staining of skin, hair, clothes, and bathroom equipment.^{w7}