Lichen planopilaris and its variants

Antonella Tosti

Fredric Brandt Endowed Professor of Dermatology & Cutaneous Surgery
DISCLOSURE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

Antonella Tosti, MD
• S023 Lichen planopilaris and its variants

DISCLOSURES

CRC Press: Royalties
Trichoscopyonline: Royalties
Fotofinder :Consultant
Karger : Editor in chief
Lichen Planopilaris

Most common cause of cicatricial alopecia

- Severe scalp itching
- Multiple irregular areas of scarring alopecia
Lichen Planopilaris

Diagnostic features

Loss of follicular openings
Peripilar casts
Hair tufting
Lichen Planopilaris

Loss of follicular openings

May or may not be associated with inflammatory changes

Inflammatory changes indicate disease activity
Lichen Planopilaris

Peripilar casts

White concentric scales surrounding the hair shaft at its emergency

Thickness is variable

Sign of disease activity
Lichen Planopilaris

Always use polarized dermoscopy to look for casts!!

Don’t use interface solution!!
Lichen Planopilaris

Hair tufting

Tufts of 2 or more hairs surrounded by a peripilar cast are very typical of LPP.
Lichen Planopilaris

Hair tufting

The V sign: two hairs surrounded by a peripilar cast
Lichen Planopilaris

Other features

Scalp erythema
Broken hairs
Pili torti
Black dots
Absence of vellus hairs
Lichen Planopilaris

Black scalp

Loss of follicular openings is not very evident due to the pinpoint white dots.

Irregular distribution of pinpoint white dots suggests scarring.
Lichen Planopilaris

Blue- gray dots

Due to pigment incontinence

Arranged in a target pattern around the follicular ostia

Lichen Planopilaris

Role of dermoscopy for pathological diagnosis

Use the dermatoscope to select the biopsy site!

Select an area that include hair tufts surrounded by peripilar casts.

Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Scarring alopecia causing progressive recession of the fronto-temporal hairline

Most common in post-menopausal women

Partial or complete loss of the eyebrows

Facial papules

Hair loss in the limbs
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Always use polarized dermoscopy to evaluate the hairline for presence of peripilar casts!
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Diagnostic features

Absence of vellus hairs

Peripilar casts

Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Peripilar casts

In FFA peripilar casts are usually thin and can be very subtle
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Other features

Loss of follicular openings

Scalp erythema

Pili torti

Broken hairs

Black dots
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Eyebrows

Loss of vellus hairs

Peripilar casts
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Hair loss on limbs

Thin peripilar casts

Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Associated with lichen pigmentosus in patients with dark phototypes

Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Role of dermoscopy for pathological diagnosis

Use the dermatoscope to select the biopsy site!

Select an area including hairs surrounded by peripilar casts.
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Frequently associated with traction alopecia in patients of African descent
Frontal Fibrosing vs Traction

Check presence/absence of vellus hairs

Frontal fibrosing alopecia

Absence of vellus hairs

Peripilar casts
Frontal Fibrosing vs Traction

Check presence/absence of vellus hairs

Traction alopecia

Vellus hairs are preserved
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Men can be affected

Absence of vellus hairs
Peripilar casts
Broken hairs
Absence follicular openings
Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia

Men can be affected

Beard and body hair frequently involved

Thin peripilar casts
Absence follicular openings
Erythema
Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution

First described by Zinkernagel & Trueb in 2011

Pathology: miniaturization (as in androgenetic alopecia) and lichenoid perifollicular inflammation

Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution

Thinning of centroparietal scalp with a pattern that resembles androgenetic alopecia

Scalp itching
Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution

Dermoscopy

Hair shaft variability

Peripilar casts

Hair tufting

V sign
Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution

Dermoscopy

Hair shaft variability

Peripilar casts

Tufts of 2 or more hairs emerging together surrounded by a casts
Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution

Diagnosis confirmed by

Pathology

Need take biopsy in the right place!
Need horizontal sections!
Need experienced pathologist!
Fibrosing alopecia with a pattern distribution vs lichen planopilaris

FAPD : miniaturization is a specific feature
LPP : vellus hairs are lost
Take home message

Dermoscopy in the diagnosis of LPP, FFA FAPD

Do not miss early cases!

Check temporal scalp and eyebrows!

Take home message
Dermoscopy in the diagnosis of LPP ,FFA FAPD
Do not miss early cases!

Always use dry dermoscopy to evaluate the scalp of patients with patterned alopecia and scalp itching
Take home message

Absence of vellus hairs is a key to recognize FFA
In androgenetic alopecia vellus hair are preserved
Take home message

Absence of vellus hairs is a key to recognize FFA
In traction alopecia vellus hair are preserved
www.trichoscopyonline.com