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Trichoscopy in alopecias: A valuable and non-invasive technique

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H air loss is the most common hair problem and a prompt diagnosis of the type of alopecia may sometimes be extremely challenging. Methods commonly used to investigate may be invasive (biopsy), semi invasive (trichogram) or non-invasive (hair count, weighing shed hair and pull test). Trichoscopy represents a valuable, non-invasive technique for the evaluation of patients with hair loss. It allows for magnified visualization of the hair and scalp skin and may be performed with a manual dermoscope or a videodermoscope. The usual working magnifications are 20-70 folds. Although the hand-held dermoscope with 10 folds magnification may give easy and quick evaluation of hair, it does not precisely measure or document. Trichoscopic observations can be broadly grouped as hair signs, vascular patterns, pigment patterns and interfollicular patterns. In this presentation, we will briefly describe the trichoscopic findings in the common categories of cicatricial and non-cicatricial alopecias such as androgenetic alopecia, alopecia areata, telogen effluvium, tinea capitis, trichotillomania, lichen planopilaris, discoid lupus erythematosus and hair shaft disorders. This method is simple, quick and easy to perform, reduces the need for scalp biopsy, is well accepted by patients and is useful for monitoring treatment and follow-up. It represents a valuable link between clinical and histologic diagnosis. New data shows that trichoscopy may easily replace light microscopic evaluation of pulled hairs in genetic hair shaft abnormalities.

Biography

Mustafa Turhan Sahin has completed his Medical education from Erciyes University, Medical Faculty, Kayseri, Turkey. He has presented many studies and case reports on dermoscopy in national and international congresses. He is currently working as a Professor in the Manisa Celal Bayar University, Medical Faculty, Department of Dermatology, Turkey. In 2013 he has attended the Dermatology Department of UCSF as a Visiting Professor. He is currently a Member of Dermatovenereology Association of Turkey, Turkish Dermatology Association, Turkish Dermatology Association, Turkish Skin and Venereologic Diseases Association, International Society of Dermatology (ISD), European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) and American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). Moreover, he is also a Board Member in International Dermoscopy Society (IDS).

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