Trichoscopy and Tinea Capitis: Comma and Corkscrew Hairs

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Received date: May 2, 2016; Accepted date: May 16, 2016; Published date: May 25, 2016

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Case Study

This dermoscopic image is from a non-scarring alopecia in a 6 years female African Child that started 2 months ago.

What is your diagnosis?

1. Alopecia areata?
2. Tinea capitis?
3. Trichotillomania?
4. Androgenic alopecia?
5. Lichen planopilaris?

This 6 years old female child, from Mayotte, presented a diffuse parietal alopecia with scaling since 2 months (Figure 1). Dermoscopic of hair scalp (Trichoscopy) shows comma hairs (Figure 2, circles) and corkscrew hair (Figure 2, squares) suggesting the diagnosis of Tinea Capitis (TC). Mycological cultures identified Trichophyton tonsurans infection. Treatment with griseofulvine leads to complete clinical (Figure 3) and dermoscopic (Figure 4) resolution of alopecia.

Comma-shaped hairs first reported by Slowinska [1] appeared to be a marker of TC and may represent an intermediate stage in evolution of TC before formation of dystrophic hairs. They were characterized by a sharp slanting end, homogeneous thickness, and pigmentation of the hair shaft. Corkscrew hair described by Hugues [2] showed more exaggerated coiled appearance of the hair shaft.

Trichoscopy is helpful in diagnosing various hair and scalp diseases [3] mainly Androgenic alopecia (Anisotrichia), Alopecia areata (Yellow and black dots, Exclamation Mark Hair), Lichen planopilaris (Perifollicular scalling, White dots and Perifollicular inflammation), Trichotillomania (curled and/or tulip hairs).

Figures

Figure 1: Non cicatricial and extensive alopecia.

Figure 2: Comma Hair (Circles), Corkscrew Hair (Squares).
References

