



HAIR DISORDERS

PERMANENT CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED ALOPECIA: REFLECTANCE CONFOCAL MICROSCOPY AND HISTOPATHOLOGIC FINDINGS

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Introduction: Chemotherapy-induced alopecia (CIA) is a reversible scalp alopecia following chemotherapy. CIA causes significant psychological distress to chemotherapy patients and typically begins within 2 to 4 weeks after treatment onset, and hair grows back fully within 6 months. However, there are an increasing number of reports of permanent chemotherapy-induced alopecia, typically following high-dose chemotherapy.

Objective: We sought to describe clinical, dermoscopic, confocal microscopy and histopathologic features in oncologic patients with permanent CIA.

Methods: Clinical examination, dermoscopy, confocal microscopy and punch biopsy were performed on 5 patients with permanent CIA.

Results: We have observed more than one type of clinical patterns of alopecia and confirmed data already known in literature about the histopathologic features moreover we add confocal microscopy features in line with histopathologic findings.

Conclusions: Confocal microscopy has a possible role to identify possible clues of follicle injury, to perform scalp monitoring during chemotherapy, to recognize early signs of permanent CIA hoping to be able to prevent and to stop the permanent hair loss.

