## Ambiguous alopecia in a 36-year-old woman

Yu-Ting Lin, MBBS, BSc (Med), and Yu-Chuan Li, MD, PhDb Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China





A 36-year-old woman with no notable medical history was referred to our dermatology clinic with a 1-year history of pruritic scalp and forehead associated with increased dandruff. She had been treated intermittently with topical steroids for seborrheic dermatitis for the past 12 months. The physical examination of the scalp revealed ambiguous alopecia over the crown area, and the skin was nonerythematous with no obvious scale (Fig 1). She also had signs of facial seborrheic dermatitis. Videodermatoscopy of the scalp revealed multiple areas of unusual looking hairs (Fig 2, *arrows*).

- 1. What is the most likely diagnosis?
  - **A.** Seborrheic dermatitis of the scalp
  - **B.** Trichotillomania
  - C. Tinea capitis
  - **D.** Alopecia areata
  - E. Female androgenetic alopecia
- 2. What is the dermatoscopic diagnostic feature of this condition?
  - **A.** Hair diameter diversity > 20%
  - B. Diffuse follicular yellow dots and short vellus hairs
  - **C.** Exclamation hairs
  - **D.** Comma or corkscrew hairs
  - E. Coiled and broken hairs

From the Department of Dermatology, Wan Fang Hospital,<sup>a</sup> and the Graduate Institute of Biomedical Informatics,<sup>b</sup> Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Funding sources: None.

Conflicts of interest: None declared.

Reprint requests: Yu-Chuan Li, MD, PhD, Graduate Institute of Biomedical Informatics, Taipei Medical University, No 250, Wu-Xin St, Taipei, Taiwan 110. E-mail: jaakli011@gmail.com. J Am Acad Dermatol 2012;67:e175-6.

0190-9622/\$36.00 © 2012 by the American Academy of Dermatology, Inc. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2012.04.035 e176 Lin and Li

J Am Acad Dermatol
November 2012

- 3. What is the treatment of this condition?
  - **A.** Systemic steroids
  - **B.** Systemic antibiotics
  - C. Topical minoxidil 2% once or twice daily
  - **D.** Topical antifungals
  - **E.** Systemic antifungals

Please visit http://www.eblueimages.org to answer these questions.