

ALOPECIA

Definition:

- Alopecia is defined as the loss of hair from areas where hair normally grows
- Partial or complete baldness or loss of hair.

Forms of Alopecia:

There are different types of alopecia. the main types of hair loss are:

- Alopecia Areata (AA)
- Alopecia Totalis (AT)
- Alopecia Universalis (AU)
- Alopecia Barbae
- Androgenetic Alopecia (AGA)
- Scarring Alopecias (Cicatricial Alopecias)

Alopecia Areata (AA):

- Alopecia areata is an autoimmune condition which causes patchy hair loss. It can result in a single bald patch or extensive patchy hair loss.

Alopecia Areata (AA)



Alopecia Totalis (AT)

- Alopecia totalis is a more advanced form of alopecia areata which results in total loss of all hair on the scalp.

Alopecia Totalis (AT)



Alopecia Universalis (AU)

- Alopecia universalis is the most advanced form of alopecia areata which results in total loss of all hair on the body, including eyelashes and eyebrows.

Alopecia Universalis (AU)



- **Alopecia Barbae**

- Alopecia barbae is alopecia areata that is localised to the beard area. It can be a single bald patch or more extensive hair loss across the whole of the beard area.

Alopecia Barbae



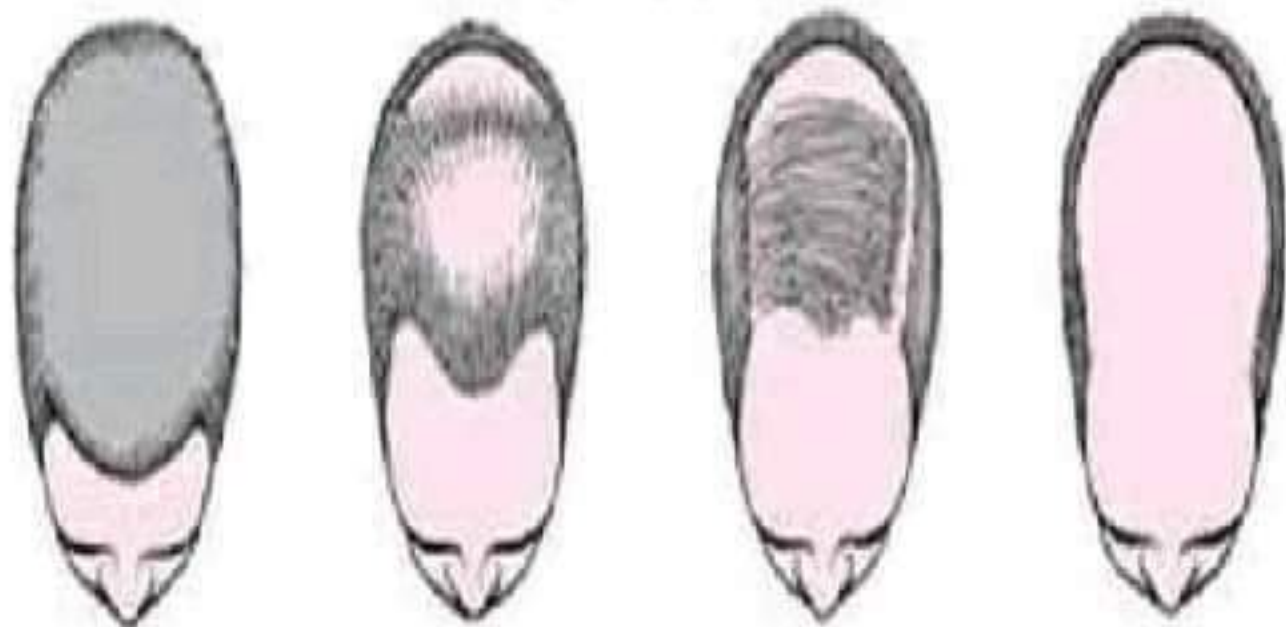
Androgenetic Alopecia (AGA)

- Also known as **male pattern baldness or female pattern baldness**.
- It is a thinning of the hair to an almost transparent state, in both men or women.
- It is hereditary
- In both men and women, it's linked to having an excess of male hormones (androgens) around the hair follicles, which can block hair growth.
- Women are more likely to develop androgenic alopecia after menopause, when they have fewer female hormones.
- **Most cases of hair loss are due to androgenic alopecia.**

male pattern baldness



Male Pattern Hair Loss



female pattern baldness



Female Pattern Hair Loss



Scarring Alopecias (Cicatricial Alopecias):

- Scarring alopecias refers to a group of rare disorders which cause permanent hair loss.
- Caused by any inflammatory processes which causes permanent damage to hair follicles.(burns, bacterial infections, autoimmune diseases)

Scarring Alopecias



Causes of alopecia:

- Exposure to allergens, irritants, toxins, burns, injuries, and infections.
- Certain medications (especially anabolic steroids like testosterone)
- Chronic kidney failure
- Radiation and chemotherapy .
- Malnutrition

Treatment

- Although hair loss rarely needs to be treated, many people seek treatment for cosmetic reasons.
- There is no cure for alopecia and no universally proven therapy to induce hair re-growth.

- Many cases of hair loss are temporary, for example, due to chemotherapy, or they're a natural part of ageing and don't need treatment.
- If hair loss is caused by an infection or another condition , treating the underlying problem may help prevent further hair loss.

Finasteride:

- It acts by preventing the hormone testosterone being converted to the hormone dihydrotestosterone (DHT).
- DHT causes the hair follicles to shrink, so blocking its production allows the hair follicles to regain their normal size.
- The balding process usually resumes within six to 12 months if treatment is stopped



- **Minoxidil:**

- Minoxidil is available as a lotion you rub on your scalp every day
- It's not clear how minoxidil works, but evidence suggests it can cause hair regrowth in some men.
- Minoxidil is currently the only medicine available to treat female-pattern baldness.

Corticosteroid injections:

- Acts by suppressing the immune system.
- This is useful in alopecia Areata because the condition is thought to be caused by the immune system damaging the hair follicles.

Retin A / Tretinoin:

- Retin-A was originally used for the treatment of acne and other skin problems.
- However studies have shown that Retin-A, when used alone in the form of a gel, which is rubbed onto the area of hair loss, or in combination with topical Minoxidil can result in moderate to good hair growth in individuals with Alopecia.

- Immunosuppressive drugs
- Ultraviolet light treatment
- Wigs

- Synthetic wigs- made of acrylic

- Real hair wigs

- Hair transplantation