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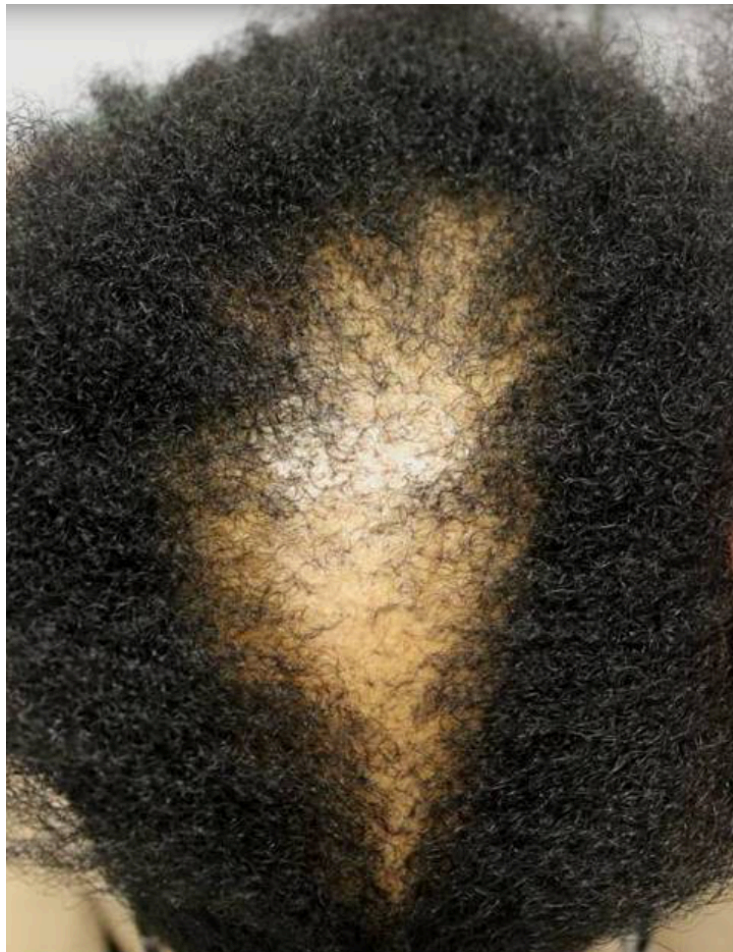
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Central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia



What is Central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia or “CCCA”?

- This is a type of scarring hair loss condition that predominantly affects black women.
- CCCA typically develops in the mid to late 30s.

- Affected women may be asymptomatic or notice itching or burning in the central region of the scalp (crown).
- Hair loss slowly spreads outwards from that area over time leading to permanent hair loss.

What is the cause of CCCA?

- The cause is unknown, but it has been hypothesized that use of braids, weaves, cornrows and relaxers, especially at younger ages may contribute to the development of this conditions.

How is CCCA evaluated?

- The diagnosis is primarily made clinically – by performing a proper examination.
- A biopsy may be obtained but is not always necessary.

What is the best treatment for CCCA?

- Treatments for CCCA include topical steroids, steroid injections and oral medications such as doxycycline or hydroxchloroquine.
- Hair transplants may be possible if the disease has been stable for 2 years.

ARTICLE 1: Hair Loss in Black Women: CCCA

Central Centrifugal Ccatrixial Alopecia (or 'CCCA' for short) is a common cause of hair loss in black women. Some estimates suggest that up to 30% of black women have CCCA. Unfortunately, the condition is very much underrecognized and underdiagnosed. Too often women with CCCA are misdiagnosed as having genetic hair loss - both conditions lead to hair loss in the central scalp.

CCCA causes permanent hair loss in the central scalp. Individuals affected by the condition sometimes have scalp itching, burning or pain but very often have no symptoms. This make it difficult to catch the diagnosis in early stages. Hair loss gets worse over time. The cause is not known at present although hair styling practices and the use of of chemicals and relaxers continue to be explored as causes.

How can we improve our ability to diagnose CCCA?

CCCA is underrecognized in the medical community and underdiagnosed. How can we train more physicians to recognize this common condition? Certainly training others to recognize this condition is the first step. There is a surprisingly easy rule I teach doctors who work with me in my clinics:

Any black women with hair loss in the middle of the scalp needs evaluation (& possibly scalp biopsy) to rule out the diagnosis of CCCA.

Hair loss from CCCA is permanent. In most cases regrowth is not possible. Treatments help stop further hair loss but are not always 100 % effective. Treatment for CCCA includes topical steroid medications and steroid injections. Oral medications including tetracycline based antiinflammatory drugs can also be used. Hair transplantation can be successfully used to restore hair density once the condition becomes quiet.

Article 2: Scarring Hair Loss Conditions in Black Women: Is hair transplantation an option?



Diagnosing hair loss in women with afro-textured hair requires special expertise. Many hair loss conditions are possible and they tend to look similar. Central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA) can look similar to genetic hair loss and so can some types of traction alopecia. Our program for women with afro-textured hair addresses some of the unique aspects of hair loss and hair care in black women.

Hair transplantation in CCCA

Central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (or "CCCA" for short) is a type of scarring hair loss condition in black women. Hair loss starts in the centre of the scalp and spreads outwards over time. If treated early, the condition may be halted - at least for some women. Hair transplants are possible in CCCA once the condition becomes quiet. Usually this means no further hair loss for a period of 1-2 years.

