

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Whisker Hair—a Common Entity?

Previously whisker hair was considered a variant of woolly hair nevus but in 1979 and 1981 (1, 2) Norwood defined this condition as a separate entity. In 1984 English & Mortimer (3) reported a case of acquired progressive kinking of the hair where the patient mentioned his hair as "pubic hair growing on the scalp", a covering description of this condition which seems to be identical to whisker hair.

The authors suggested that it was an androgen-dependent condition and that it might progress to male pattern alopecia.

This report concerns another patient with whisker hair.

CASE REPORT

The patient was a 24-year-old male who since puberty had noticed that his hair in the temples around the ears had become dark, coarse and curly (Fig. 1). There was thinning of the hair in the temporal region, the individual hairs were short with atrophic bulbs and could easily be pulled out. The remaining hairs were in contrast fair, soft, straight and appeared as normal terminal hair.

Certainly, this entity is more common than previously recognized and is probably a grave prognostic sign heralding a severe androgenic alopecia.



Fig. 1. Marked thinning of the hair in the temple. The hairs in the region are short, curly and dark.

REFERENCES

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3. English JSC, Mortimer PS. Acquired progressive kinking of the hair. *Clin Exp Dermatol* 1984; 9: 102-104.

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