



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

SERIOUS AS WELL AS MINOR SIDE EFFECTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES. SERIOUS RISKS, WHICH CAN BE LIFE THREATENING, INCLUDE BLOOD CLOTS, STROKE AND HEART ATTACKS, AND ARE INCREASED IF YOU SMOKE CIGARETTES. CIGARETTE SMOKING INCREASES THE RISK OF SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR SIDE EFFECTS. ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE OVER 35. WOMEN WHO USE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO SMOKE. SOME WOMEN SHOULD NOT USE THE PILL, INCLUDING WOMEN WHO HAVE BLOOD CLOTS, CERTAIN CANCERS, A HISTORY OF HEART ATTACK OR STROKE, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE OR MAY BE PREGNANT. **THE PILL DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV OR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.**

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Developing A Bald Patch? It Could Be A Hidden Tooth Infection

ScienceDaily (Nov. 28, 2007) — There is a close relationship between infection outbreaks on teeth and the presence of alopecia areata or localized alopecia, a type of hair loss which has an unknown origin. Alopecia areata starts with bald patches on the scalp, and sometimes elsewhere on the body. The disease occurs in males and females of all ages, and experts believe that it affects 1 out 1000 people.

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Research by professors José Antonio Gil Montoya and Antonio Cutando Soriano, of the Department of Stomatology of the University of Granada, advises going to the dentist when patients notice localized hair loss, in order to receive a careful examination of their oral health.

“Alopecia areata is a dermatitis which presents the following signs: The typical pattern is for one or more round bald patches to appear on the scalp, in the beard, or in the eyebrows, or to undergo a loss of eyelashes. Alopecia areata is thought to be an auto-immune

disease”, stated the researchers.

Hair re-grows in most patients after several months. However, in a quarter of all patients the condition recurs once or more. According to professors at the UGR, the affected hair follicles are not totally destroyed. Therefore, hair can grow back, although patients who have already suffered from alopecia areata may have recurrences.

Unpredictable development

Frequently, patients with alopecia areata have hairs with the shape of an exclamation mark on the border of the bald patch. Hairs become weak and fall out easily. Several studies suggest that alopecia areata has unpredictable development: sometimes hair grows back within a few weeks, but in some cases the disease progresses and can cause further hair loss on scalp and body.

Until the research at the UGR, which establishes for the first time a relationship between alopecia areata and dental disease, the origin of this kind of hair loss was not well known. Hair-follicle tissue inflames without cicatrisation. In alopecia areata, the affected hair follicles are mistakenly attacked by the immune system. Some of the factors that cause alopecia are: genetics, family history of alopecia, non-specific immune reactions, specific auto-immune reactions of certain organs and emotional stress.

“We have found that bald patches caused by tooth infection are not always in the same place. They normally appear on a line projected from the dental infection and can thus can be located on the face at the level of the maxillary teeth, above a line through the lip-angle to the scalp, beard, or even to the eyebrow. Nevertheless, they can also be located far from infection outbreak,” explained Gil Montoya and Cutando Soriano.

Adapted from materials provided by [University of Granada](#).

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