

Alopecia Areata is an autoimmune disease that involves the loss of hair, not only on the head, but sometimes all over the body as well. It is not contagious. Alopecia Areata affects approximately 2% of the population. Alopecia is unpredictable and often cyclical.



canaaf@gmail.com



www.canaaf.org

Types

Alopecia Areata: the most common type. Usually present as small round, smooth, bald patches.

Alopecia Totalis: Loss of all hair on the scalp.

Alopecia Universalis: Loss of all scalp and body hair.

Causes

Alopecia is an autoimmune disease. For unknown reasons, the immune system attacks its own hair follicles. A person's genetic makeup, combined with other factors, triggers this form of hair loss.

Impact on the Patient's Quality of Life

Although alopecia is not a life threatening disease, it IS a life altering disease. Alopecia can be psychologically and socially challenging, not only for those who have been diagnosed but for their families and significant others as well. Children and teens may experience bullying. People with alopecia may be mistaken for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. By promoting awareness and education, CANAAF aims to support those affected by alopecia.

Treatment and Care of Condition

A dermatologist may recommend treatments such as ointments, creams, steroid injections, or oral medications. More recently, research is being conducted with JAK inhibitors to promote hair growth. While some of these treatments may be somewhat effective, so far there is no known cure for alopecia.

Some people with alopecia choose to wear a wig or a hairpiece. Others wear headscarves, hats, or turbans. Some choose not to hide their alopecia and cover up only for warmth and protection from the elements. Some people with alopecia have their eyebrows micro-bladed (tattooed).

CANAAF supports those affected by alopecia, promotes awareness and education and raises funds for research.