



Figure 6 Multiple well-demarcated, smooth, bald, round alopecic patches of hair loss of varying sizes on the scalp

LP and AA are autoimmune dermatoses and are associated with other conditions like diabetes mellitus, vitiligo, autoimmune thyroid diseases, etc to name a few. So far, only 3 reports of co-localization of AA and LP have been published in the literature [1-3]. Till now, no case report of the coexistence of LP and AA has been reported. Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells (pDCs) are specialized dendritic cells exhibiting plasma cell morphology, expressing CD4, CD123, HLA- DR, Blood-Derived Dendritic Cell Antigen-2 (BDCA-2), Toll-like receptor (TLR)7 and TLR9 within endosomal compartments and their role in autoimmune diseases is gaining traction recently. On activation, they produce type I IFN, against pathogenic agents and link the innate and adaptive immunity by controlling the function of myeloid dendritic cells, T, B, and natural killer cells. pDCs are absent in normal skin but infiltrate when injured, thereby contributing to the pathogenesis of inflammatory dermatoses (like LP and AA). Vries et al found pDCs in close approximation to the basal layer in lesional LP, corresponding to lymphocytic infiltration [4]. It has been hypothesized that some common antigenic determinant may be a triggering factor for the onset of both diseases, and thus, a primary autoimmune process directed against basal epidermal cells in LP could have possibly resulted in disruption of hair follicle immune privilege zone thereby exposing the hidden antigens from hair follicles, leading to pDCs recruitment, production of IFN-gamma and resulting in aggravation of LP and occurrence of secondary autoimmune response i.e., AA [5].

This explains the coexistence of LP and AA in our case report. This rare case of sequential occurrence of LP followed by the AA has not been reported previously and might offer possible theories which contribute to the literature on T cell-mediated autoimmune disorders.

DECLARATIONS

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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