



## Comments on the article: "Black women's hair: the main scalp dermatoses and aesthetic practices in women of African ethnicity"\*

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/abd1806-4841.20165446>

The referred article presents an all-encompassing view regarding the hair of Afro-American women.<sup>1</sup>

We consider relevant to emphasize an association observed with greater frequency in black patients: frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA) and lichen planus pigmentosus (LPP).

Lichen planus pigmentosus is a variant of lichen planus with symptoms such as greyish, brownish or black macules, diffuse or reticulate, in photoexposed and flexural areas.<sup>2,3</sup> Histologically, it is characterized by hyperkeratosis, atrophic epidermis and vacuolar degeneration of the basal layer.<sup>2</sup>

The investigations which pointed out this correlation were carried out with African, Indian and Hispanic patients.<sup>2,4</sup> The conclu-

sion was that it is more common in patients with higher phototypes, in which the prevalence of lichen planus pigmentosus is greater.<sup>5</sup>

In the Ambulatory of Trichology at the Hospital de Clínicas - UFPR we followed 79 patients with frontal fibrosing alopecia. Out of these, 8 are of mixed or black ethnicity and 2 presented lichen planus pigmentosus.

Another factor that should be highlighted is that Dlova<sup>2</sup> and Berliner<sup>4</sup> demonstrated, in all of their cases, lichen planus pigmentosus lesions preceding the onset of frontal fibrosing alopecia. These pigmentary lesions may be considered "clues" for diagnostic aid between FFA and traction alopecia, especially in black patients, as well as early markers for a clinical picture of FFA still incipient.<sup>2,4</sup>

Received on 29.11.2015

Approved by the Advisory Board and accepted for publication on 11.01.2016

\* Work performed at Hospital de Clínicas - Universidade Federal do Paraná (HC-UFPR) - Curitiba (PR), Brazil.

Financial Support: None.

Conflict of Interest: None.

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**How to cite this article:** Tomiyoshi C, Mulinari-Brenner FA, Kusano LDC. Comments on the article: "Black women's hair: the main scalp dermatoses and aesthetic practices in women of African ethnicity". *An Bras Dermatol.* 2016;91(5):702.