Blonde Hair Heterochromia Over a Background of Black Scalp Hair in an Indian Child

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A 9-year-old healthy Indian boy presented with a focal patch of golden brown hair over a background of black scalp hair since birth. The color of this patch of hair had remained unchanged over the years. There was no history of similar hair findings or pigment disorders in any of the family members. Scalp examination revealed a tuft of golden brown hair spread over a diameter of 4 cm along the left side of the frontal hairline [Figure 1]. Teeth and nail examination were normal, and there was no evidence of heterochromia of hair elsewhere on the body. All routine investigations were normal, and no evidence of nutritional deficiencies was found. Trichoscopic examination revealed uniform thickness of the heterochromic hair and normal skin underlying the heterochromic hair patch [Figure 2]. On light microscopy, the hair shafts in the heterochromic patch were homogeneously pigmented along the entire length with no shaft abnormalities [Figure 3a and b]. Based on these findings, a diagnosis of isolated patchy heterochromia of scalp hair was made.

Scalp hair heterochromia is described as the presence of two different colors of scalp

Figure 1: Focal patch of golden brown hair along the left frontal hairline

Figure 2: Trichoscopy showing golden brown hair with uniform thickness in the heterochromic patch with normal underlying skin (DermLite DL4, Polarised, ×20)

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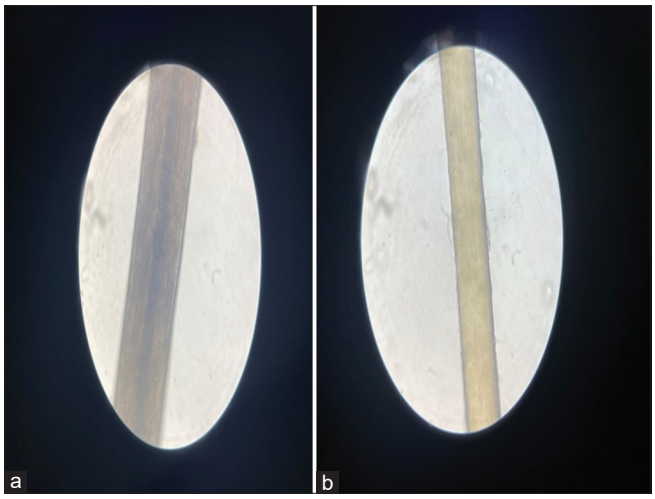

Figure 3: (a) Light microscopy of normal hair (Dry mount,×40) (b) Light microscopy of heterochromic hair showing blonde hair with homogenous pigmentation along the length of hair shaft with no shaft abnormalities (Dry mount, ×40)

hair in the same individual. The exact cause is not known, but some of the etiologies that have been proposed include genetic mosaicism, nutritional deficiencies, and drugs. Isolated patchy scalp hair heterochromia is a rare entity.[1,2] In the absence of any cutaneous pigmentary anomaly and underlying cause, the isolated patchy scalp hair heterochromia in our case can be described as a sign of somatic mosaicism. This case is reported here due to the rarity of the condition and the paucity of cases reported from India.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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