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Medical Imagery

Clinical course of alopecia after COVID-19



Sir,

A 49-year-old man was admitted to our hospital in late March 2020, 6 days after onset of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). He received remdesivir in a clinical study. Oxygen supplementation was not required. Defervescence occurred 12 days after onset, and he was discharged 21 days after symptom onset. In mid-May 2020, he noticed alopecia on his head. He started taking self-imported minoxidil 5 mg/day and finasteride 1 mg/day in June 2020, and was still taking these medications at the time of writing. Alopecia began to improve in August 2020. [Figure 1](#) shows the condition of his hair 3 months and 1 year after COVID-19.

This course is consistent with telogen effluvium, a type of alopecia that occurs several months after various physical and psychological burdens ([Paus and Cotsarelis, 1999](#)). Previous studies have reported alopecia of varying severity in three patients ([Rizzetto et al., 2020](#)) and 10 patients ([Mieczkowska et al., 2021](#)) after COVID-19. Our case did not need supplemental oxygen, but the psychological burden of isolation, limited information about COVID-19 ([Kutsuna, 2020](#)), anxiety about the illness becoming severe, and prejudice of people following hospital discharge may have triggered alopecia. The medications may have contributed slightly to the improvement seen, but rapid progression is inconsistent to androgenic alopecia. Further research will enhance our understanding of the pathogenesis of alopecia after COVID-19.



Figure 1. Hair condition of the patient 3 months (left) and 1 year (right) after coronavirus disease 2019.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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Ethical approval

Not required. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient.

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Tetsuya Suzuki^{a,b,*}
Satoshi Kutsuna^a
Sho Saito^{a,b}
Akira Kawashima^a
Ayako Okuhama^a

Kohei Kanda^a
Lubna Sato^a
Makoto Inada^a
Yutaro Akiyama^a
Satoshi Ide^{a,b}
Keiji Nakamura^a
Takato Nakamoto^a
Kei Yamamoto^a
Masahiro Ishikane^a
Noriko Kinoshita^{a,b}
Shinichiro Morioka^{a,b}
Kayoko Hayakawa^a
Norio Ohmagari^{a,b}

^aDepartment of Infectious Diseases, Disease Control and Prevention Centre, National Centre for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

^bEmerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

* Corresponding author at: Department of Infectious Diseases, Disease Control and Prevention Centre, National Centre for Global Health and Medicine, 1-21-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8655, Japan.

E-mail address: tesuzuki@hosp.ncgm.go.jp (T. Suzuki).

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