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Post Alopecia Areata Poliosis (PAAP)

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Clinical Image

A 30 year old male presented to the dermatology outpatient department with multiple patches of white hairs in beard for the past 2 months (Figure 1a). Patient gave history of spontaneous loss of hairs 2 months from the concerned areas, followed by regrowth of white hairs. Rest of the beard hairs was spared. There was no similar history in the past. Scalp and other body hairs were not affected. Trichoscopy revealed normal pigment network on skin surface with decreased hair density as compared to the rest of the beard. Multiple white hairs along with few interspersed black regrowing hairs were seen (Figure 1b). Based on the clinical history, examination and trichoscopic findings a diagnosis of 'post alopecia areata poliosis' was kept and patient was counselled. He was given intralesional triamcinolone acetonide (5mg/kg) in the affected areas.

Poliolsis is the decrease or absence of melanin from hairs. It can be seen in genetic disorders and acquired disorders like vitiligo and alopecia areata. Poliosis after alopecia areata is usually associated with bad prognosis.
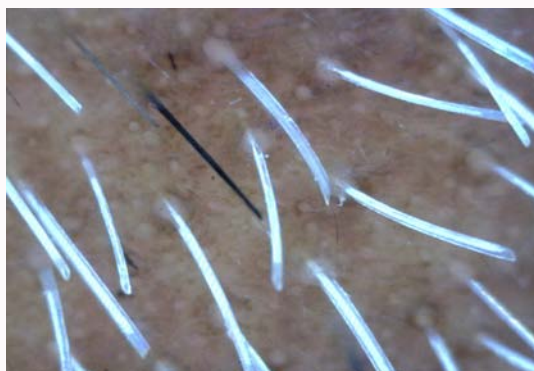
Figure 1a:

Figure 1b: