



## **Jeff Donovan MD PhD FRCPC**

*Dermatologist, specializing in hair loss*

---

750 West Broadway Suite 905 - Vancouver BC V5Z 1H8

Phone: 604.283.9299 Fax: 604.648.9003

Email: [vancouveroffice@donovanmedical.com](mailto:vancouveroffice@donovanmedical.com) Web: [www.donovanmedical.com](http://www.donovanmedical.com)

### **Alopecia Areata**

#### **What is alopecia areata?**

- Alopecia areata is an autoimmune condition that affects about 2 % of the world's population.
- 50 % of those who develop alopecia areata will experience hair loss before the age of 20. Therefore, alopecia areata is frequently starts in childhood and adolescence.
- The condition is classified as an autoimmune condition, meaning that the body's own immune system is attacking the hairs.
- The precise cause is unknown.

#### **What are the different types of alopecia areata?**

- The vast majority of individuals with alopecia areata develop a limited number of patches (circular areas of hair loss) on the scalp.
- Alopecia totalis refers to loss of all scalp hair.
- Alopecia universalis refers to loss of scalp hair as well as all body hair.
- There are many other types as well

#### **What are the treatments for alopecia areata?**

Treatments help some patients regrow hair.

If patients have small areas of hair loss, treatments include:

1. steroid injections
2. minoxidil
3. prednisone (short course)

If patients have more extensive areas of hair loss, treatments include:

1. diphencyprone
2. anthralin
3. methotrexate
4. sulfasalazine
5. steroid injections
6. prednisone
7. cyclosporine
8. tofacitinib/ruxolitinib

