Clinical Image

Monilethrix: Value of dermoscopy

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Monilethrix is a rare genodermatosis, typically transmits in autosomal dominant mode characterized by hair fragility and hair shaft dysplasia, which is responsible of hypotrichosis or alopecia [1].

The term comes from latin for "monile), meaning necklace and greek for "thrix" meaning hair [2].

Dermoscopy still necessary for confirmation of monilethrix diagnosis and in differentiating it from other causes of hypotrichosis.

We report the case of a 8 year-old male born of a non consanguineous marriage was brought by her mother with complaints of fragile hair and hypotrichosis since 6 months of age.

There was a similar history in the family members: his mother, brother and two maternal uncles.

Examination revealed short and rough hair, easily breakable over the scalp and eyebrows with multiple discrete keratotic papules all over the scalp, neck and limbs (Figs. 1a and 1b).

Dermoscopy signs include (Fig. 2):

Broken hairs revealing a beaded appearance.

Epileptical nodes with intermittent constrictions giving appearance of "regular bended ribbon", which is a characteristic sign.

We also found black dots and anisotrichosis as a non specific signs.

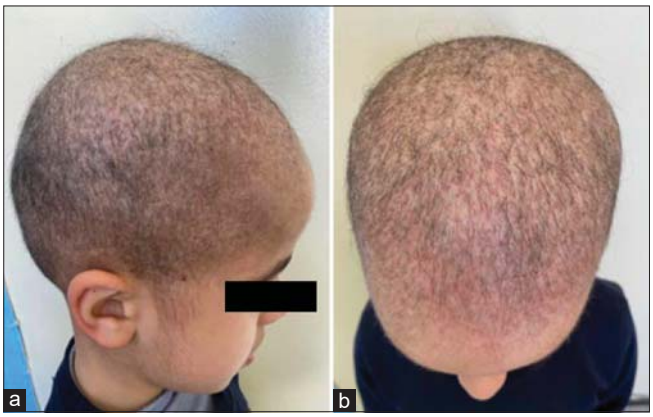

Figure 1: (a and b) Hypertrichosis with discrete keratotic papules all over the scalp.

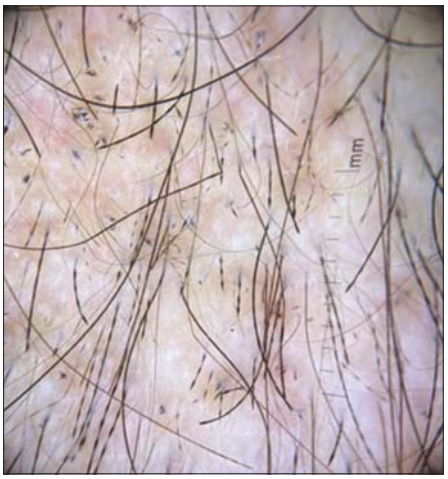

Figure 2: Trichoscopy: Broken hairs - Epileptical nodes with intermittent constrictions -Anisotrichosis.

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A therapeutic treatment with topical minoxidil was conducted.

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