

Differentiating Between Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia, Traction Alopecia, and Alopecia Areata in Black Patients: Photographic Examples From a Clinical Trial

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OBJECTIVE

- To examine diagnostic challenges specifically for differentiating CCCA and traction alopecia from AA in Black women

CONCLUSIONS

- The management of AA differs from that of CCCA and traction alopecia, which stresses the need for accurate diagnosis
- Although photographic evidence alone cannot conclusively determine the type of alopecia with which patients in this study presented, this disclosure provides visual examples of helpful signs that can be observed in the physical examination of a Black patient presenting with hair loss suggestive of AA
- Photographic images were presented to illustrate the pattern of hair loss and signs that are consistent with scarring alopecias such as CCCA and traction alopecia, as well as with AA
- The visual similarities between these types of alopecias underscore the complexities and diagnostic challenges that may impede accurate diagnosis among Black patients, particularly women
- Ultimately, these examples may be useful in assisting dermatologists in considering and recognizing the signs of these different types of alopecia so that appropriate management and treatment expectations can be set



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BACKGROUND

- Alopecia in Black patients, particularly Black women, can present diagnostic challenges due to the coexistence of more than 1 type of alopecia, such as the scarring alopecia central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA) and traction alopecia that can mimic alopecia areata (AA)^{1,2}
- Understanding clinical presentations of scarring and non-scarring alopecias in patients with skin of color is key to providing effective care across diverse populations²
- In an addendum study of the BRAVE-AA1 trial, Black patients were recruited to more closely examine the response to treatment with baricitinib; photographic evaluation was undertaken during screening and throughout the study
- This disclosure provides photographic examples of AA, CCCA, and traction alopecia as observed in patients during the screening evaluation for the BRAVE-AA1 addendum study, and can provide guidance for consideration in the differential diagnosis of AA

RESULTS

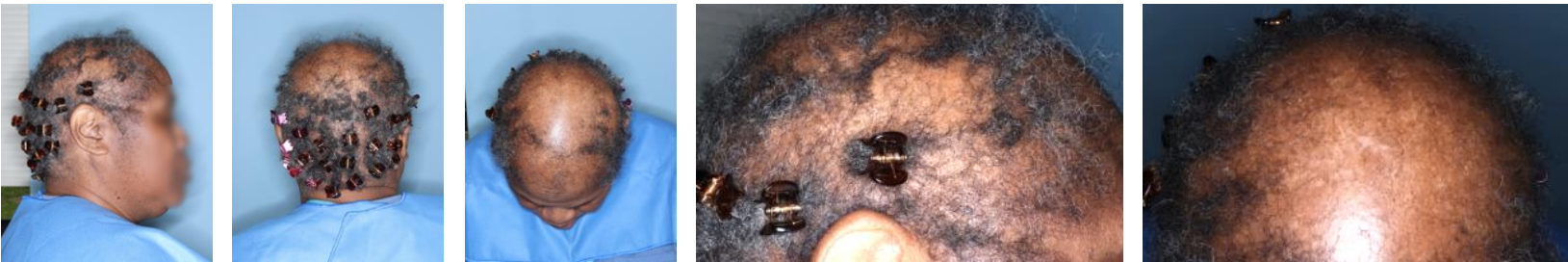
- Photographs were obtained for 36 patients with alopecia who underwent screening
- 12 of the 36 (33%) patients were determined to have CCCA or traction alopecia by the external expert and were therefore ineligible for the trial
- Images of both AA and non-AA cases were selected by the authors to illustrate key signs that can aid in differentiating AA from the other alopecias that were observed in the screened patient population
 - Some patients had co-occurrence of >1 pattern of alopecia
- Scalp biopsies were not performed, which is a limitation of these data

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS - Signs Distinguishing CCCA and Traction Alopecia vs. AA

- Hair loss involving the vertex, midscalp, and parietal scalp, while sparing the occipital scalp, may be indicative of CCCA
- Scalp hypopigmentation and hyperpigmentation reflect the inflammatory processes associated with CCCA
- “Fringe signs” can suggest traction alopecia
- AA is characterized by the presence of asymmetrically distributed, circular smooth bald patches

CCCA

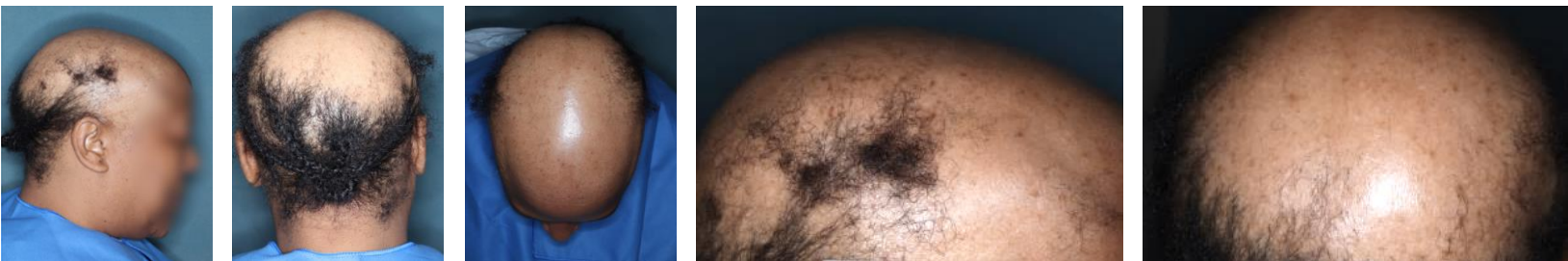
Female, 55 years



- Hypopigmentation/hyperpigmentation
- Frontal and vertex involvement

Severe CCCA

Female, 44 years



- Not much notable inflammation
- No follicular openings can be seen

CCCA and/or Traction Alopecia

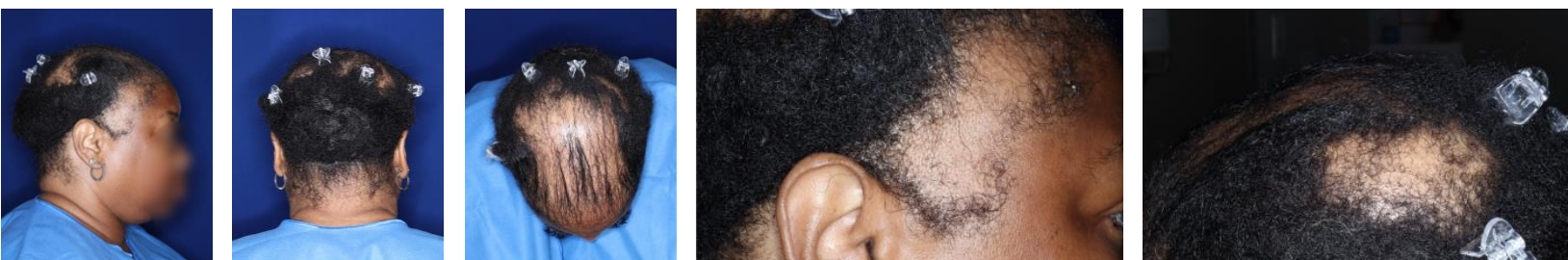
Female, 56 years



- Mottled hypopigmentation/hyperpigmentation
- Frontal and vertex involvement

CCCA and Traction Alopecia

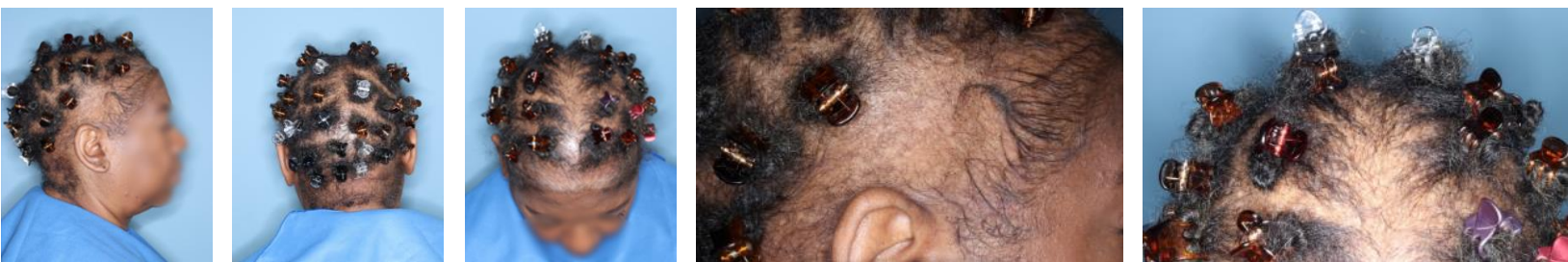
Female, 55 years



- Fringe sign
- Diffuse scarring loss

CCCA and Traction Alopecia

Female, 56 years



- Fringe sign
- Moderate diffuse thinning of the midline part

AA

Female, 56 years



- Occipital scalp involvement
- Asymmetrically distributed bald patches

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Methods

Study Design

- The BRAVE-AA1 addendum study recruited Black patients with severe AA to more closely examine hair regrowth in response to treatment with baricitinib 4 mg during 52 weeks of therapy
- Photographic evaluation was performed at screening and throughout the study
- At screening, all images were reviewed centrally by an external expert to determine consistency with AA and eligibility for the trial

Key Eligibility Criteria for BRAVE-AA1 Addendum

- Age ≥18 years to ≤60 years (males) or ≤70 years (females)^a
- Current episode of AA lasting >6 months to <8 years^b
- No spontaneous improvement in the 6 months before screening
- Not primarily a “diffuse” type of AA
- No concomitant treatments for AA allowed^c
- Must self-identify as either Black or African American in race (open-label addendum)
- Hair loss involving ≥50% of the scalp, as measured by Severity of Alopecia Tool score

^aDifferent upper age limits were included for male and female patients based on the difference in prevalence of concomitant androgenetic alopecia; ^bPatients who had AA for ≥8 years could be enrolled if episodes of regrowth (spontaneous or under treatment) had been observed on the affected areas over the past 8 years;

^cOral/topical minoxidil or finasteride was permitted if on stable dose for ≥12 months, and bimatoprost ophthalmic solution was allowed if on stable dose for ≥8 weeks.

Photograph Protocol for the BRAVE-AA1 Addendum 5 Study

- Photographs of 5 planes of the scalp (right lateral, frontal, left lateral, forward tilt, and posterior) were obtained at screening and post-baseline
- Camera equipment and a study-specific photography manual was provided to all sites, and personnel were trained to conduct photography under similar lighting conditions and magnifications
- Images were taken with polarization and cross-polarization lenses and reviewed for compliance with standardization procedures
- For this disclosure, images of both AA and non-AA cases were selected by the authors to illustrate key signs that can aid in differentiating AA from the other alopecias that were observed in the screened patient population

References: ¹. Green M, et al. *Int J Womens Dermatol*. 2023;9:e108. ². Semble AL, McMichael AJ. *Semin Cutan Med Surg*. 2015;34:81-88.

Abbreviations: AA=alopecia areata; CCCA=central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia

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