

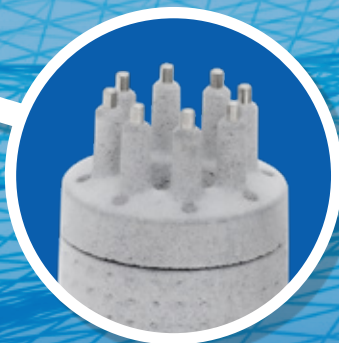


CERTIFIED  
ELECTROMEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGY

# TRICOPAT<sup>®</sup>

Innovation for hair pathologies

The first validated and patented protocol  
for the painless treatment  
of scalp pathologies



[www.tricopat.com](http://www.tricopat.com)



A black and grey handheld device with a circular head containing several small, light-colored pins.

## Safe, Effective, Made in Italy

**TRICOPAT®** is the latest development in trichology for the treatment of male and female scalp pathologies, in a completely painless way and without injections.

The device uses the unique **TRICOGENESI®** protocol, which is backed by 2 global patents and marks an innovation that is 100% Italian.

The result of over 15 years of experience in the field of dermatology, TRICOPAT® was developed thanks to a research project performed at the **Scientific and Technological Hub** that is home to CNR, ENEA and the University of Bologna.

Protocol  
**TRICOGENESI®**



**TRICOPAT®** technology combines the simultaneous action of pressure waves and skin micro-incision to perform **various dynamic-restructuring actions**:

## How does TRICOPAT® work?

- 1** Immediate increase of blood microcirculation for tissue **oxygenation**
- 2** Stimulation of the tissue's **cellular metabolism**
- 3** Delivery of active ingredients



# TRICOPAT®

concentrates several  
dynamic restructuring  
actions in a single portable  
device weighing just 4,5 kg,  
including:

- Controlled skin micro-incision
- Pressure wave stimulation
- Ionophoresis
- Electrostimulation
- Photostimulation



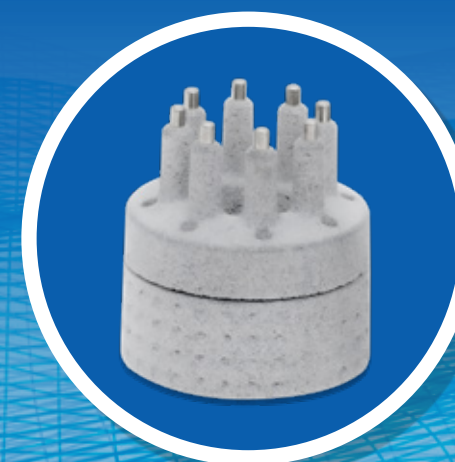
SKIN PATTING



THE PROTOCOL CONSISTS OF JUST  
4 SESSIONS EVERY 3 WEEKS

The protocol **TRICOGENESI®** is developed by the association of TRICOPAT® and growth factors  
vehiculated with iontophoresis.

The result is a significant improvement of androgenetic alopecia both in male and female  
patients, with reduction of hair loss and an increased hair diameter in all the treated scalp areas.



TRICHOLOGICAL  
CUP



HAIR GROWTH  
FACTOR



# Clinical Studies

This technique represents a **safe and useful option for treating and preventing androgenetic alopecia**, by mechanisms that included activating fibroblasts and elastin at the scalp under wound healing conditions, pronging anagen phase regrowth of new hair by stimulation of the blood microcirculation and by the effect of growing factors.

Moreover, this procedure is **simple for the operator and is extremely pleasant for the patient**, with cost-effect ratio very low. As this association targets multiple pathogenetic factors of AGA, we believe that this procedure should be offered to patients with AGA for a faster hair follicle stimulation.

**Trichoscopy showed an improvement in 60 patients (30 males - 30 females).**

## RESEARCHER EVALUATION

showed excellent treatment efficacy:

- no patient was judged stable
- 6 with slight improvement
- 18 with moderate improvement
- 36 with significant improvement

## PATIENT EVALUATION

showed excellent treatment efficacy:

- 27 with moderate improvement
- 33 patients with significant improvement



First phase – Skin patting











Second phase – Trichological cup


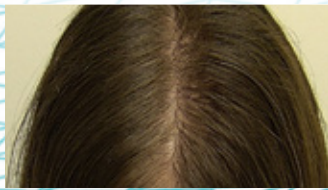

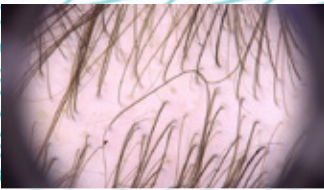





# Results of our costumers

# Results of our costumers

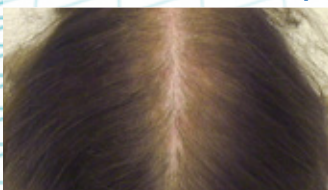
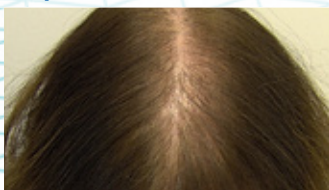
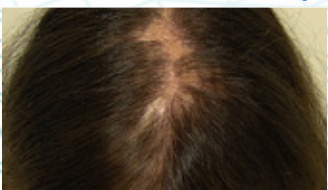
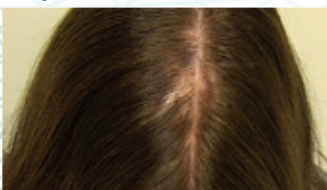
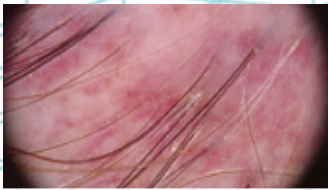



Before	After	Before	After
<b>Androgenetic alopecia</b>		<b>Androgenetic alopecia</b>	
			
			
Courtesy of CDM		Courtesy of CDM	

<b>Androgenetic alopecia</b>		<b>Androgenetic alopecia</b>	
			
			
Courtesy of CDM		Courtesy of CDM	

<b>Alopecia areata incognita</b>		<b>Alopecia areata incognita</b>	
			
			
Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini		Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini	

Before	After	Before	After
<b>Alopecia areata incognita</b>		<b>Alopecia cicatriziale</b>	
			
			
Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini		Dr. Rossi - Dr. Carlesimo - Dr. Fortuna	

<b>Lichen plano pilaris</b>		<b>Lichen plano pilaris</b>	
			
			
Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini		Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini	

<b>Lichen plano pilaris</b>		<b>Lichen plano pilaris</b>	
			
			
Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini		Dr. Starace - Dr. Piraccini	



# The Effectiveness and Tolerability of Preformed Growth Factors Vehiculated Through Iontophoresis on Patients with Androgenetic Alopecia and Telogen Effluvium: A Clinical Study

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**Key words:** iontophoresis, androgenetic alopecia, telogen effluvium, growth factors, scalp disorders, physical therapy.

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**ABSTRACT** **Background:** Androgenetic alopecia is characterized by a progressive miniaturization of hair follicles in a pattern distribution in genetically predisposed individuals. The efficacy of conventional therapies is variable, therefore there is a need for adjuvant and newer treatment modalities to provide faster and better outcomes.

**Objectives:** Evaluation of the efficacy and tolerability of a combined therapy: preformed growth factors vehiculated through iontophoresis in patients with androgenetic alopecia and associated telogen effluvium, to obtain faster hair regrowth.

**Materials and Methods:** Treatment was performed between June 2018 and June 2019 on 60 patients with androgenetic alopecia and associated telogen effluvium. Each patient underwent 4 sessions in total, each session was performed every 3 weeks. Global photography and trichoscopy were collected at every session of therapy. All patients filled out a self-assessment questionnaire.

**Results:** Results were very promising, with improvement of hair density and thickening of the hair shaft diameter in most of patients seen with both global photography and trichoscopy. All patients were satisfied of the clinical result and reported a complete reduction in hair loss. No serious adverse side effects were reported.

**Conclusions:** The use of growth factors associated with iontophoresis technique is a useful treatment for treating and preventing androgenetic alopecia. In addition, in case of associated telogen effluvium, this technique allows for an early stop of hair shedding, especially when cosmetic procedures do not provide satisfactory results in patients.

## Introduction

Hair loss represents a problem for the patient for cosmetic and psychological reasons because hair symbolizes an important mirror of our image and a physical attractiveness to self-perception of beauty. The field of hair disorders is constantly growing. The first step to address this issue, is to collect a good historical record and perform a thorough physical examination. Laboratory testing is often unnecessary, while trichoscopy is fundamental for all hair diseases. Androgenetic alopecia and telogen effluvium are common causes of non-scarring alopecia. Many treatments are available, and a prompt diagnosis is particularly important for the prognosis.

Androgenetic alopecia (AGA) is the most common cause of non-cicatricial alopecia and affects up to 50% of women and 80% of men during their lifetime [1], with a frequency that increases with age after puberty. The disease is characterized by a progressive miniaturization of hair follicles in selected areas of the scalp, in genetically predisposed individuals. The effectiveness of conventional therapies with finasteride and minoxidil, in terms of the arrest of alopecia progression and induction of new hair regrowth, is variable between 40% and 60% [2], therefore over the years physical adjuvant treatments have been introduced to obtain faster and better results, especially for those patients who have not achieved satisfying results or that require further clinical improvement. This review highlights the importance of adding adjuvant physical or surgical therapies, such as PRP (PlateletRich Plasma), when standard treatments do not give enough results. In addition, androgenetic alopecia can start with an episode of telogen effluvium (TE) characterized by a diffuse hair loss occurring around 3 months following a triggering event and lasting for about 6 months. In TE, hair loss is usually less than 50% of the scalp hair [3,4]. TE occurs more frequently in adult females.

Preformed growth factors vehiculated through iontophoresis is one of the most innovative treatments. It is a patented technique that increases hair follicle growth through 3 combined mechanisms: application of preformed growth factors with multiple microdermal incisions of the scalp, pressure wave, and iontophoresis. The use of this technique has been investigated as a potential therapeutic option for the treatment of hair disorders due to its capacity to enhance growth factor production, facilitate hair follicle development and cycling, amplify collagen and elastin production and create microchannels that allow transdermal delivery of drugs through the stratum corneum. The technique is performed through puncturing with 0.25 mm microneedles, preventing deep injury and scar formation. The procedure is sufficient to induce skin irritation and trigger skin repair mechanisms (as measured by induction of TGFbeta, TGFalpha, FGF 7, PDGF), ultimately resulting in collagen deposition by fibroblasts. The aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of

the application of preformed growth factors with multiple microdermal incisions of the scalp vehiculated by iontophoresis in patients with AGA and TE, supporting its combined administration along with the existing therapeutic modalities, to obtain faster hair regrowth and patient satisfaction.

## Materials and Methods

A pilot study, openlabel, not randomized, singlegroup, and singlecenter was performed. 30 subjects with grade II, III, IV, and V male androgenetic alopecia according to Hamilton-Norwood Scale and 30 women of Ludwig's grade I, II, III (15 with AGA and 15 with TE associated) second scale were included in the study between June 2018 and June 2019.

During the first enrollment visit (T0), patients underwent a dermatological examination, global photography and photomicrograph (trichoscopy and Trichoscan®). The treatment procedure included 4 sessions of microdermal incision followed by iontophoresis performed every 3 weeks. During each session, a vial containing growth factors was applied on the scalp that was subsequently treated with a skin patting device followed by iontophoresis to allow absorption of the product. We performed two control visits, the first after 6 months from the first treatment and the second after one year. Patients were evaluated with instrumental methods for clinical and trichoscopic evaluation and self-assessment questionnaires during each visit.

No anesthesia was necessary for the procedure. The first step of this device is a controlled microdermabrasion by a sequence of micro wounds with a needle length 0.25 mm over affected areas in longitudinal, vertical, and diagonal directions, eight times in each direction or until mild erythema, which was considered as the end point to stimulate the dermis repair process resulting in increased vascularization, release of growth factors, fibroblast multiplication and increased collagen and elastin synthesis.

The device also produces a radial pressure wave (mechanical action) directed to the scalp. It has 3 different effects: strengthening of the microcirculation, stimulation of cellular metabolism that increases the intake of active ingredients, stimulation of fibroblast activity with collagen and elastin production. Finally, the iontophoresis induces a muscular stress enhancing the contractile capacity of the skin and inducing the dilation of the pores of the skin to facilitate the absorption of the active ingredients. At the end of the treatment, the scalp is irradiated with red LED light with a bio-stimulant effect on the production of fibroblasts and elastin. Each procedure lasted for about 2025 minutes.

After the procedure, it is unnecessary to clean the scalp or apply any cream. Following the procedure, no precautions were recommended to patients, who can continue with cosmetic or pharmacological treat



ments as usual. We evaluated the efficacy and tolerability of this technique before starting the treatment and after 6 and 12 months through pull test, clinical iconography, and trichoscopy; digital images were obtained at 20×, 40×, and 70× magnifications at the vertex and central hairline of the scalp and both the number and the diameter of the hairs were measured with Trichoscan® software. We used a standardized grid located on the scalp at every session to correctly locate the same frontal and vertex scalp area during the treatment, using the Kang's point or "V" point as primary reference. The "V" point is calculated by the intersection of the midsagittal line, and the coronal line connecting both tips of the tragus of the patient. Furthermore, we questioned all patients about local adverse effects or increase in hair loss, as well as their perception of hair growth.

Results

Data was collected from a total of 60 patients, between June 2018 and June 2019. Among the female patients' group, 15 suffered from AGA, and other 15 suffered from AGA and associated TE. All male patients (30) had AGA. All patients underwent 4 sessions of preformed growth factors vehiculated through iontophoresis at an interval of 3 weeks, over a total period of 12 months. All patients were Caucasian, and the mean age at the diagnosis was 39,9 (range 18-78 years). Global photography and trichoscopy revealed the typical aspect of AGA with the presence of diameter variability, peri-

pilar signs and empty follicles in 75% of patients; the fifteen patients with associated TE showed short hairs in regrowth at trichoscopy and a positive pull test with telogen hair roots. All enrolled patients completed the study without adverse reactions or side effects. No pain or discomfort were reported by patients during the procedure and no erosion or breakage of hair shaft was noted on the affected areas. Global photography and trichoscopy showed improvement in all 60 patients with a partial or complete reduction in hair loss, confirmed by a negative pull test, associated to the perception of a hair density improvement and a hair shaft diameter thickening. The results are listed in Table 1. In particular, male patients showed a 14.61% increase in the total number of hairs/cm2 in the anterior area of the scalp and a 13.62% increase in the hair diameter in the vertex area (Figure 1). Female patients, on the other hand, showed a 13.68% increase in the total number of hairs / cm2 at the anterior area and an increase in the hair diameter of 15,61% in the vertex area (Figure 2). In all patients a reduction of vellus hair was detected in all areas of the scalp with an increase in the total number of hairs. After 1 year, the researcher's evaluation reported an evident improvement in all patients: more in detail, a moderate improvement was reported in 6 patients and a significant improvement in 12. All patients were satisfied by the treatment; 17 referred a moderate improvement and 43 reported a significant improvement. Most of them (53/60) defined the treatment as "painless and pleasant".

Table 1. Results of our study.

	To	T6	Difference% (To-T6)
Female patients			
Anterior average hair density	163,96	186,39	13,68%
Vertex average hair density	161,22	188,95	17,20%
Anterior average vellus hair/cm2	41,43	33,71	-0,62%
Vertex average vellus hair/cm2	34,21	28,95	-0,51%
Anterior average hair diameter	0,08	0,09	14,28%
Vertex average hair diameter	0,08	0,10	15,61%
Average Pull test	6,37	2,60	-59,16%
Male patients			
Anterior average hair density	151,00	173,06	14,61%
Vertex average hair density	146,44	169,44	15,70%
Anterior average vellus hair/cm2	38,77	35,97	-7,23%
Vertex average vellus hair/cm2	38,44	34,85	-9,32%
Anterior average hair diameter	0,07	0,08	8,67%
Vertex average hair diameter	0,07	0,08	13,62%
Average Pull test	4,60	2,47	-46,38%

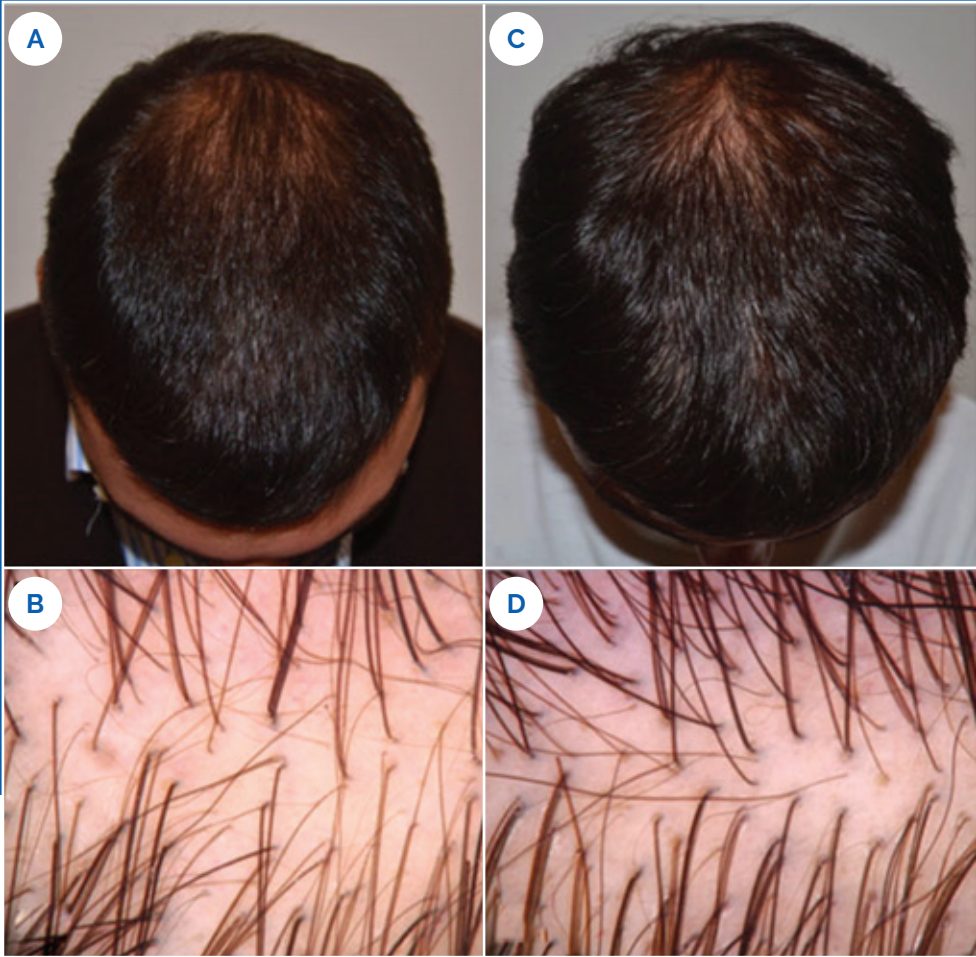


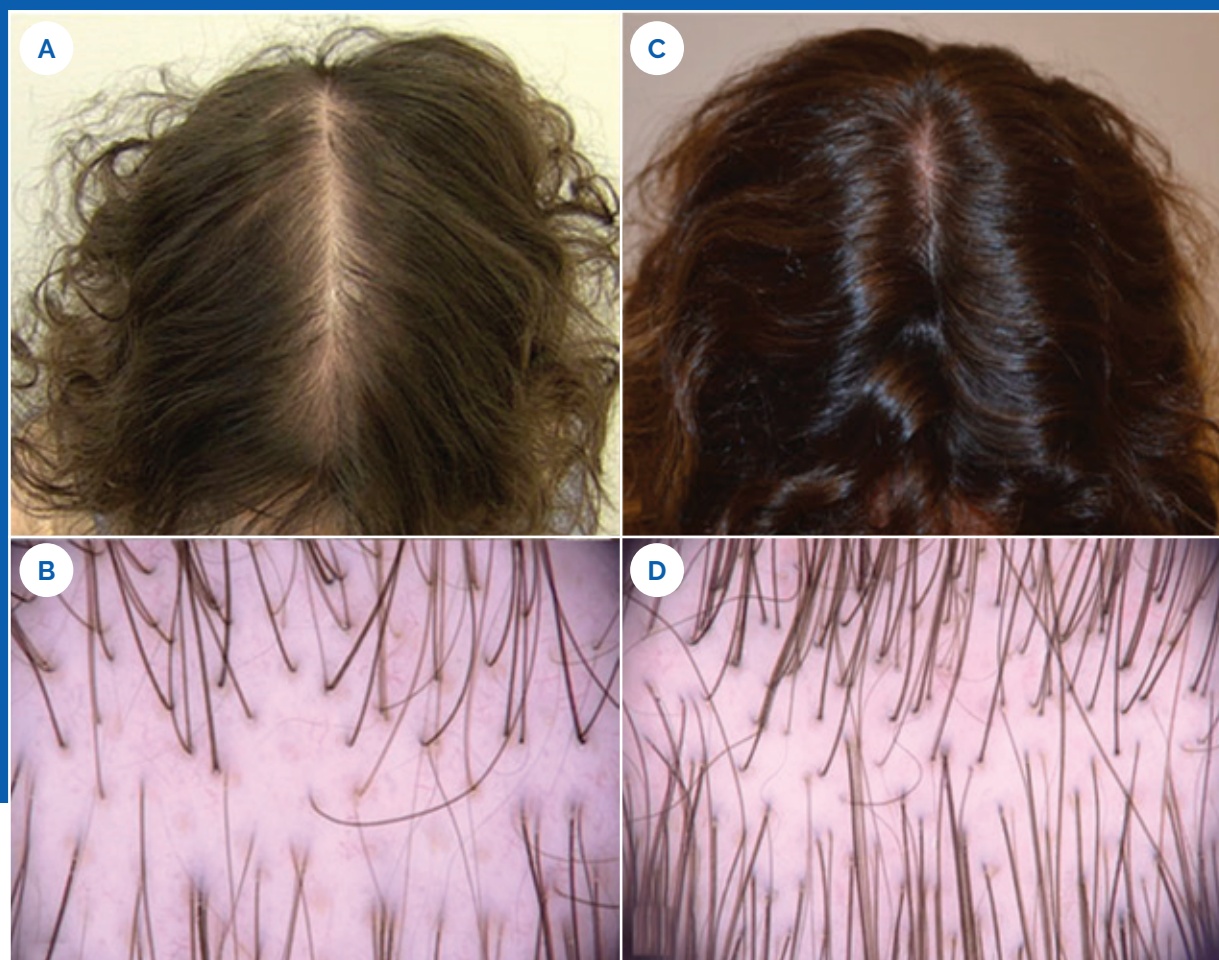
Figure 1. Androgenetic alopecia in a 31-y-old male. Clinical picture (A) and corresponding dermoscopic image (B) at baseline and clinical picture (C) and corresponding trichoscopic image (D) with increased hair density after 6 months.

Discussion and Conclusions

Androgenetic alopecia (AGA) is the most common cause of non-scarring alopecia, affecting up to 50% of women and 80% of men [1], with a frequency increasing with age after puberty. Its prevalence is higher in Caucasians than in blacks and Asians [5,6]. AGA is characterized by progressive hair thinning developing under the influence of a testosterone metabolite, dihydrotestosterone (DHT), against a background of genetically determined susceptibility of the hair follicles, in frontal, temporal and vertex regions. Clinical manifestations are different in both sexes. In males, AGA determines a progressive fronto-temporal recession and a vertex loss, while in women the frontal hairline is preserved and hair loss involves more or less uniformly the frontal region, posteriorly to the hairline. Female patterns might occur in males and vice versa. Male AGA is commonly evaluated using the Hamilton-Norwood scale that distinguishes 12 degrees of severity. Female AGA is evaluated either using the Ludwig scale (3 stages), or the Sinclair (5 stages) or Savin scales (6 stages). Pull test typically shows telogen roots, but trichoscopy is the most important tool for diagnosis. Androgenetic alopecia is a slowly progressing disease that, if not treated, induces diffuse hair thinning in androgen-sen-

sitive areas of the scalp. According to the most recent European Guidelines [2], effective medical treatments, such as finasteride and minoxidil, are available with evidence level 1, but as is well known, they are chronic therapies that may lose effectiveness over time. Many topical and systemic treatments are available. Minoxidil still represents a milestone as a "hair growth stimulator", even if the precise mechanism of its action is not completely understood [7]. To maintain efficacy treatment should be continuous and not suspended. Over the years several types of physical treatments have assumed an important adjuvant role, especially for those patients who have not obtained satisfactory results with medical therapies or that desire further improvements. Other treatment options include the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) treatment [8,9], low-level laser (light) therapy [10], and surgery [11,12]. In addition, one of the first symptoms reported by patient is an initial hair shedding or telogen effluvium. The term telogen effluvium (TE) defines a diffuse hair loss that occurs around 3 months following a triggering event, lasting for about 6 months. TE results from noxious events that precipitate the entry of a large number of follicles into the telogen phase. Possible causes include systemic diseases, drugs, fever, stress, weight loss, delivery, iron deficiency, and inflammatory scalp disorders. Hair loss is usually less than 50%





**Figure 2.** Androgenetic alopecia in a 29-y-old female. Clinical picture (A) and corresponding dermoscopic image (B) at baseline and clinical picture (C) and corresponding trichoscopic image (D) with increased hair density after 12 months.

of the scalp hair [3,4]. TE is more frequent in adult females and can be the consequence of an interruption of the follicular cycle with a sudden shift from the growth (anagen) phase to the rest (telogen) phase [13]. In fact, an episode of telogen effluvium can show a consequent androgenetic alopecia in predisposed subjects.

We performed a study to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of preformed growth factors applied through with iontophoresis for the treatment of androgenetic alopecia in 60 patients, 30 male and 30 females, for a period of 12 months. The evaluation was both subjective, based on an efficacy and tolerability questionnaire filled out by both the clinician and the patient, and objective, through the comparison of global photographs and serial photomicrographs (trichoscopy at 20X, 40X, 70X and Trichoscan® magnifications (FotoFinderdermoscope, Teachscreen Software, Bad Birnbach, Germany). Our study illustrated the efficacy and non-invasiveness of a treatment procedure with preformed growth factors through iontophoresis.

This technique works by increasing the blood flow to hair follicles, stimulating stem cells and inducing the activation of growth factors by neovascularization and neocollagenesis. As reported in the literature, numerous growth factors can stimulate the hair growth cycle [14-17]. VEGF, essential for angiogenesis and vascular

permeability, is responsible for maintaining the correct vascularization of the hair follicle in the anagen phase. IGF-I promotes growth by regulating cell proliferation and migration during the development of hair follicles. B-FGF promotes the anagen phase in hair follicles and is considered a potential promoter of hair growth. KGF is essential for regenerating hair follicles by stimulating more resistant stem growth. Finally, EGF has a direct action on fibroblasts enhancing their action on collagen and elastin production.

Treatment to arrest alopecia progression and induce new hair regrowth in androgenetic alopecia patients include finasteride and minoxidil. Oral intake of nutritional supplements containing iron, vitamins, and aminoacids, and topical application of cosmetic lotions formulated to block acute hair shedding and promote hair growth [18] include Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), Fibroblast growth factor (FGF), and Vascular Endothelia Growth Factor (VEGF).

Adjuvant and recent treatments include physical therapies such as PRP or microneedling [19] where there is an improvement in hair growth through the stimulation of dermal papilla and stem cells and an increase in hair follicles blood supply with growth factors recruitment. However, these techniques are often reported as painful by the patients, and in some cases the pain is hard to bear.

Our study confirms the fundamental role of the association between the use of growth factors conveyed associated with the iontophoresis technique in increasing hair regrowth and hair diameter avoiding pain or discomfort symptoms. This technique represents a safe and useful option to treat androgenetic alopecia, especially when associated with telogen effluvium, through mechanisms that include stimulation and elongation of hair follicle anagen phase, increased

blood microcirculation, activation of fibroblasts with collagen, and elastin production. Furthermore, this procedure is simple to perform and extremely pleasant for the patient. Future large controlled clinical trials exploring the utility of preformed growth factors through iontophoresis are imperative to prove its validation as an evidencebased therapeutic option for patients with a variety of hair disorders, thus confirming its role as more than a cosmeceutical treatment.

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## Iontophoresis as a potential treatment for alopecia areata incognita

Alopecia areata incognita (AAI) is an autoimmune hair disorder characterized by intense hair loss occurring rapidly.

The current standard treatment involves the use of corticosteroids.<sup>1-4</sup>

Skin patting and iontophoresis (SPi) have shown promise in enhancing the delivery of topical medications, increasing their effectiveness.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of a topical drug, triamcinolone acetonide, administered through SPi for the treatment of aal in female patients over a period of 4 months.

Five patients with a clinically and histologically proven diagnosis of aal were enrolled in the study over a one-month period (february 2023). The age range of the volunteers included was between 20 and 72 years. The study had a total duration of 6 months (february-July 2023). In addition, they stopped any treatment for 3 months before starting the therapy and no other treatments were possible during the study.

After evaluated inclusion criteria and clinical and trichoscopical evaluation, the patient received four sessions of SPi, one every three weeks, with the topical application of a triamcinolone acetonide gel. After 6 months, the patients

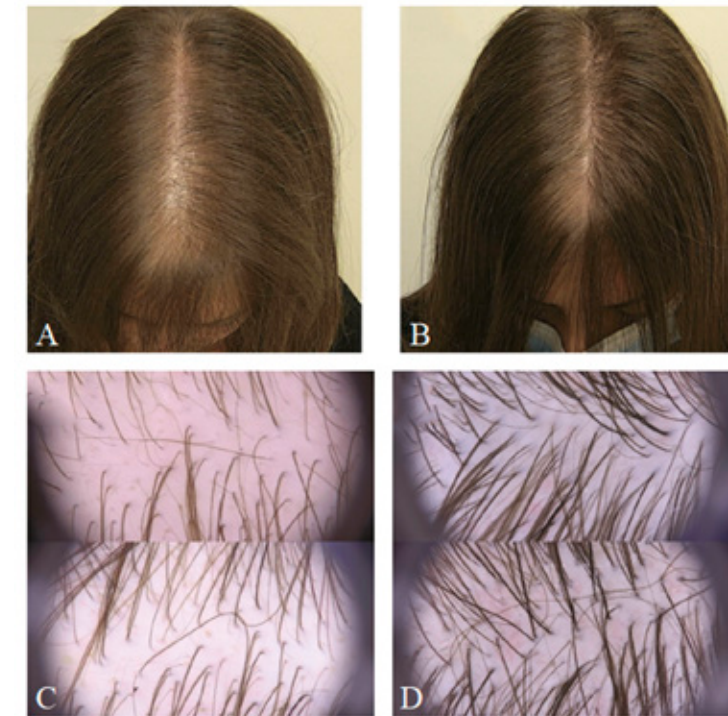


Figure 1.-Global picture of a 38-year-old patient affected by AAI at To (A) and at the final examination after 4 therapeutic sessions (B). Trichoscopy image of the patient at To (C) and at the final visit (D).

underwent instrumental evaluation to assess the treatment's effectiveness. In addition, the volunteers completed a self-questionnaire regarding the treatment's effects, the cosmetic satisfaction with the product, and its overall effectiveness.

None of the patients experienced adverse reactions or side effects throughout the study. Trichoscopy analysis showed a significant reduction in inflammatory signs in all patients, such as yellow dots/empty follicles, short regrowing hair, pigtail hairs, and vellus hairs. These signs completely disappeared in four cases. Additionally, the pull test, initially strongly positive, was negative after 4 months (figure 1a-D).

The investigator's assessment after 4 months confirmed the effectiveness of the treatment in all patients. The patients reported positive outcomes, with all of them experiencing efficacy of the treatment, and defined the treatment pleas-



ant. Skin Patting® (APS, faenza, ravenna, Italy) is a patented technique designed to stimulate hair follicle activity through three combined mechanisms: controlled microdermal incisions in the scalp, pressure waves, and iontophoresis. Initially, the device performs controlled microdermabrasion that stimulate the repair process of the dermis. Furthermore, the device generates a radial pressure wave directly on the scalp that improves blood microcirculation, stimulation of cell metabolism facilitating the absorption of active ingredients and activation of fibroblast activity. Additionally, iontophoresis enhances the skin's contractile capacity and induces dilation of the skin pores, promoting the absorption of active ingredients.

At the end of the treatment, the scalp is exposed to red LED light that stimulates fibroblast and elastin production and possesses strong anti-inflammatory properties.<sup>5</sup>

AAI is a hair loss disorder caused by the immune system attacking hair follicles, leading to rapid and intense hair loss. This condition primarily affects young females, and during physical examination, the pull test often shows positive results.<sup>1</sup>

Trichoscopy has proven useful in identifying inflammatory signs of AAI, including yellow dots, short regrowing hair, and pigtail hairs, mainly in the upper parietal regions.<sup>2</sup>

These signs tend to disappear as the disease and hair loss improve thanks to the therapy. The standard treatment for AAI consists of systemic, intralesional and topical corticosteroids under occlusion. However, alternative treatments like topical immunotherapy are now integrated into the treatment approach for this condition.<sup>3,4</sup>

Nevertheless, there is a pressing need for more effective therapeutic strategies such as SPi permitting the absorption of the drugs.

In conclusion, this study provides evidence for the effectiveness and tolerability of SPi in combination with topical triamcinolone acetonide for the treatment of AAI in female patients. Further research and larger studies are warranted to validate these findings and explore the long-term effects of this treatment approach.

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#### Conflicts of interest

The authors certify that there is no conflict of interest with any financial organization regarding the material discussed in the manuscript.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

#### History

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# “CLINICAL STUDY ON THE EFFICACY AND TOLERABILITY OF TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE DELIVERED BY SKIN PATTING AND IONTOPHORESIS ON FEMALE VOLUNTEERS WITH ALOPECIA AREATA INCOGNITA AND LICHEN PLANO PILARE”

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## Objective

The aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of a topical drug (triamcinolone acetonide) delivered by skin patting and iontophoresis for the treatment of alopecia areata incognita and lichen plano pilare in female patients, for a period of 4 months. The evaluation was both subjective, through the judgement of the operator and the patient, and objective, through the comparison of global pictures and trichoscopy.

## Materials and methods

Ten patients were enrolled over a period of one month, 5 patients were suffering from alopecia areata incognita and 5 patients were suffering from lichen plano pilare. Volunteers aged between 20 and 72 years were included in the study. Subjects suffering from precancerous or neoplastic conditions, or from serious systemic diseases (diabetes, cirrhosis); pregnant and lactating women were excluded from the study. The study had a total duration of 4 months. During the first visit, the volunteer was assessed by the researcher and was enrolled in the study according to the inclusion criteria. During the first enrolment visit (T0), patients underwent a dermatological examination, global pictures and trichoscopy using Trichoscan® (FotoFinderdermoscope, Teachscreen Software, Bad Birnbach, Germany). The volunteer underwent physical treatment with skin patting and iontophoresis on 4 consecutive sessions, one every 3 weeks, and she was clinically evaluated by the researcher. At the final visit 3 months later, the patient was re-evaluated with instrumental methods. The volunteer answered a questionnaire on the effect of the treatment, the cosmetic pleasantness of the product and its effectiveness. During each follow-up visit the patient was given local therapy by topical application of a gel containing triamcinolone acetonide and then she was treated with the skin patting device and iontophoresis to allow absorption of the product.

## Results

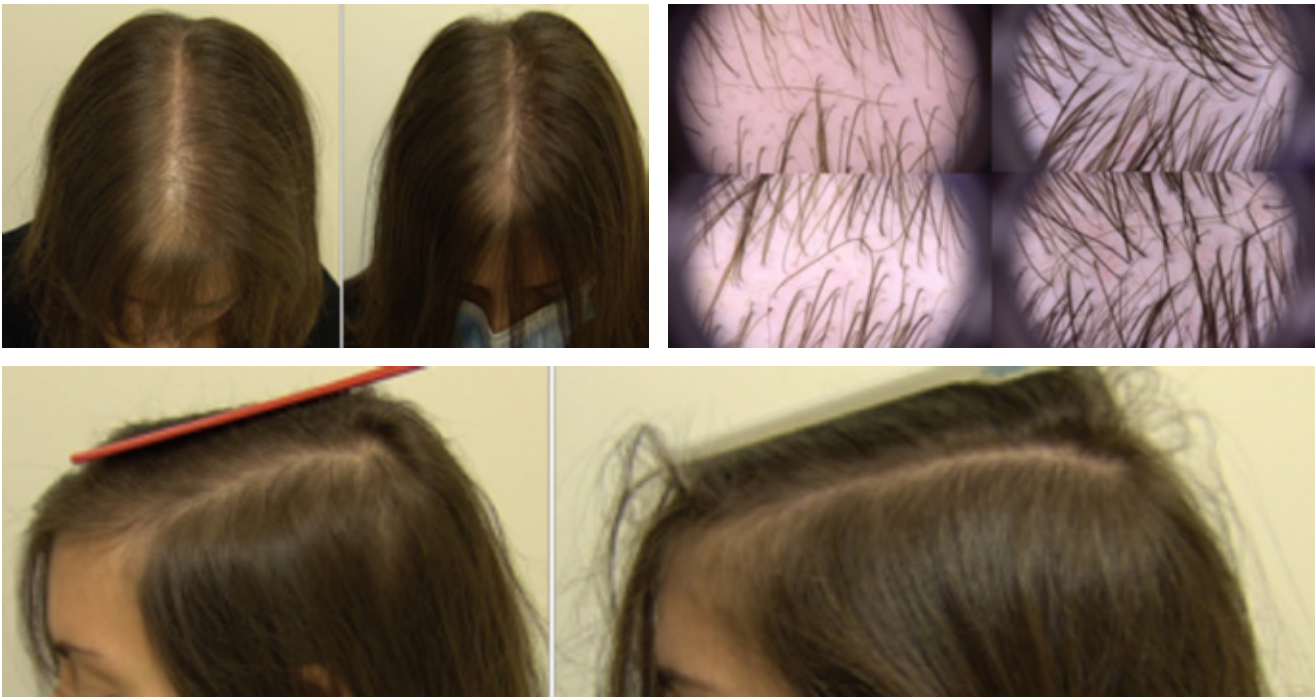
Ten female patients, 5 suffering from alopecia areata incognita and 5 from lichen plano pilare, were enrolled in the study. All patients completed the study without adverse reactions or side effects.

## Tricoscope

Trichoscopy showed improvement in all 10 patients.

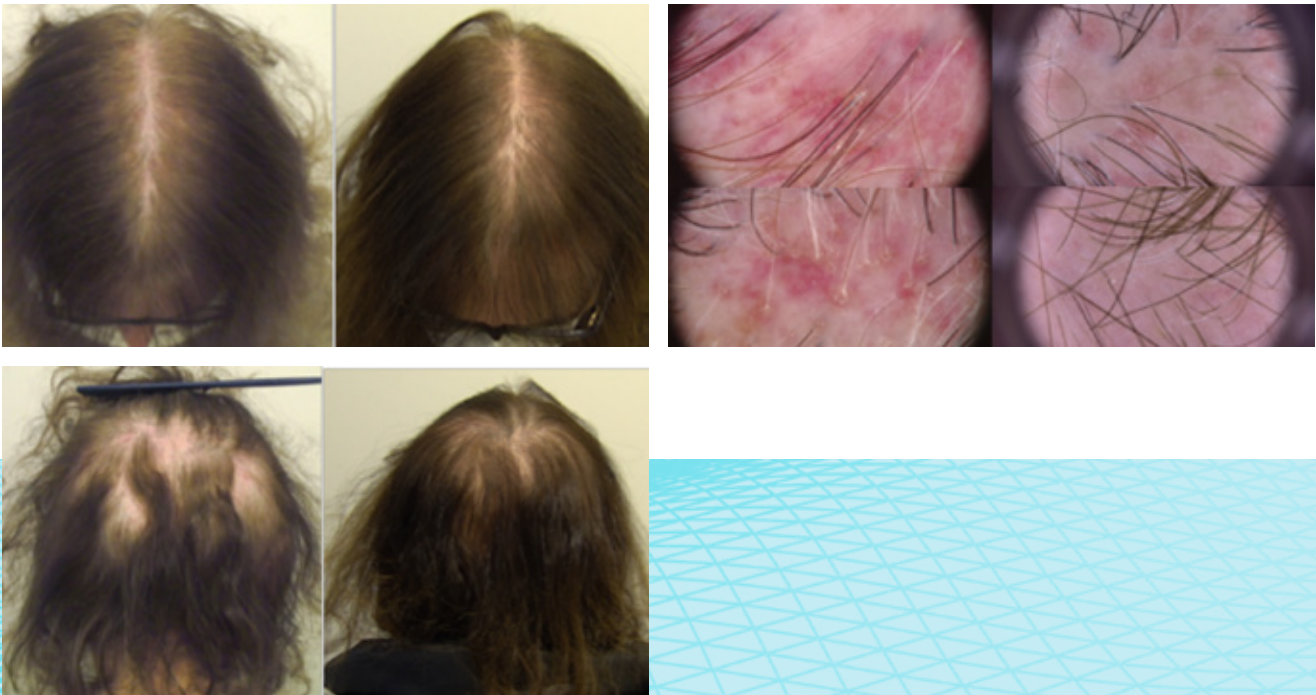
## ALOPECIA AREATA INCOGNITA

A considerable reduction of inflammatory signs was evidenced: yellow dots/empty follicles, short regrowing hair, pigtail hairs, vellus hairs in all patients with disappearance of these signs. In only one patient there was a reduction of the signs seen and not a total disappearance. The pull test was strongly positive at the beginning but showed after 4 months a disappearance of the hair loss.



## LICHEN PLANO PILARE

A significant reduction in the inflammatory signs: perifollicular hyperkeratosis, erythema and hair casts was observed in all patients with the disappearance of these signs at the end of the treatment cycle. Another important factor that was observed in all patients was an increase in diameter in the surrounding hair. Only in two patients was a reduction of the signs and not a total disappearance seen. The weakly positive pull test at the beginning was negative at the final examination after 4 months.





EVALUATION BY THE RESEARCHER

After 4 months, the investigator's assessment showed effectiveness in all patients:, no patient was judged to have worsened since the first visit.  
After 4 months, the investigator's assessment showed excellent therapeutic efficacy in all patients: 1 with slight improvement, 1 with moderate improvement and 8 with significant improvement.

PATIENT EVALUATION

The patient evaluation showed efficacy in all patients: 3 with moderate improvement and 7 with significant improvement. In addition, all the patients with lichen plano pilare reported a significant reduction in itching after the first treatment and a disappearance after the second treatment.

SKIN PATTING STUDY ON ALOPECIA AREATA INCOGNITA

Patient	Age	Sex	Pull test	Empty follicles	Vellus hair	Hair regrowth	Pig tails hairs
1	33	F	Neg	A	A	A	A
2	57	F	Neg	A	A	A	A
3	72	F	Neg	A	A	A	A
4	49	F	Neg	A	A	R	R
5	20	F	Neg	A	A	A	A

SKIN PATTING STUDY ON LICHEN PLANO PILARIS

Patient	Age	Sex	Pull test	Perifollicular hyperkerato-sis	Erythema	Hair cast	Hair in the periphery
1	61	F	Neg	A	R	A	P
2	60	F	Neg	A	A	A	P
3	54	F	Neg	A	A	A	P
4	68	F	Neg	R	R	A	P
5	68	F	Neg	R	R	A	P

Absent: A      Reduced: R      Present: P

Discussion and conclusion

Alopecia areata incognita is an autoimmune inflammatory hair disease presenting with an intense hair loss reported by the patients in a short time. It generally affects young females, and, on physical examination, the pull test is positive. Trichoscopy can now diagnoses the condition non-invasively, showing mainly in the parietal regions the presence of inflammatory signs: yellow dots, short hair regrowth and pigtail hairs. These signs disappear as the disease and hair loss improves.

Lichen plano pilaris is an autoimmune inflammatory disease presenting with scarring alopecia. The symptom generally reported by patients is an incoercible itching that underlines the activity of the disease. On trichoscopy, the activity of the disease is observed by the presence of perifollicular hyperkeratosis, hair casts and erythema. Also, in this case the disappearance of these signs identifies the reduction of the inflammatory phase. With a scarring evolution, the therapy is useful to block the inflammatory activity because the regrowth in the affected areas is not possible, but with the help of medical therapy it is possible to thicken the surrounding areas to better cover the affected ones.

Skin Patting® is a patented technique designed to increase hair follicle activity through 3 combined mechanisms: multiple microdermal incisions in the scalp, pressure waves and iontophoresis. The first action of the device is a controlled microdermabrasion with a sequence of micro wounds that stimulate the repair process of the dermis with increase vascularization, multiplication of fibroblasts and increase production of collagen and elastin. The device also causes a radial pressure wave (mechanical action) directly on the scalp which produces three different effects: enhancement of blood microcirculation, stimulation of cell metabolism which facilitates the uptake of active ingredients, stimulation of fibroblast activity with increase production of collagen and elastin. Finally, iontophoresis determines a muscular stress caused by electrostimulation, creating an immediate tensor effect followed by relaxation, enhancing the skin's contractile capacity, and inducing dilation of the skin pores, which facilitates the absorption of active ingredients. At the end of the treatment, the scalp is irradiated with red LED light that emits a coherent monochromatic non-collimated light with a short wavelength variability (+ - 5%) that has a bio-stimulating effect on fibroblast and elastin production and a strong anti-inflammatory action.

Skin patting® and the delivery of topical steroid therapy through iontophoresis guarantee absorption of the active ingredient without the use of an invasive procedure, but with the same effectiveness. This combination of physical therapy of skin patting and iontophoresis combined with the deep application of steroid therapy in these inflammatory pathologies, aims to enhance the anti-inflammatory action and obtain results in a very short time, thus reducing the risk of irreversible thinning in the LPP.

Our study confirms the fundamental role of the association between skin patting® and steroid therapy delivered by the iontophoresis technique in blocking the inflammatory state of the two pathologies and allowing the regrowth of the hair affected in alopecia areata incognita or the thickening of the peripheral hair in lichen plano pilaris. This technique represents a safe and useful option for treating two inflammatory hair diseases, through mechanisms including activation of fibroblasts and elastin on the scalp in wound healing conditions, regeneration of the anagen phase of new hair by stimulation of blood microcirculation and the anti-inflammatory effect of steroid therapy.

In addition, this procedure is simple for the operator and extremely pleasant for the patient. Our study showed a significant improvement in female patients suffering from alopecia areata incognita and lichen plano pilaris, with a reduction in inflammatory signs and hair loss in all areas of the scalp treated.





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## Technical Data Sheet

**Model :** TRICOPAT

**Voltage:** 230 Vac

**Rated frequency:** 50/60 Hz

**Max. absorbed power:** 125 VA

**Max. current consumption:** 540 mA

**Safety class:** BF

**Protection rating:** I

**Fuses:** 2 x T2AL250V

**Electric stimulator output voltage:**

80 Vpp with 1 K load

**Electric stimulator activation time:** 300  $\mu$ s

**Electric stimulator mode frequency:** 2 Hz

**Patting head pulse frequency:** 6 Hz

**Blue LED wavelength:** 465 nm

**Red LED wavelength:** 632 nm

**Control unit dimensions:** 363 x 303 x 151 mm

**Weight:** 4,5 Kg



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