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**Original article:
A clinical study of alopecia areata in children at a tertiary care centre in Telangana state, India**

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**Abstract**

Alopecia areata (AA) is a common cause for hair loss in children which causes considerable parental anxiety. It is common in age group 6-10years, with male to female ratio being 1.67:1.Family history of AA was present in 27.5% of the subjects. The affected site is scalp being 97.5%, followed by face (30%). Occipital region was the most common site of scalp involvement. Patchy alopecia areata was the most common pattern observed in both males and females, followed by ophiasis. Ophiasis was the most common pattern of AA observed in atopic individuals. Duration of AA varied from 7 days to 2 years. In majority (82.5%) of the patients the duration was less than 6 months. Majority (71.8%) of the children had mild AA followed by moderate AA (25.64%) and severe AA(2.56%). Atopy was seen in 17.5% of subjects. Among them, 10% had atopic dermatitis, 5% had allergic rhinitis and 2.5% had asthma. Thyroid disorders were associated with 12.5% of the subjects. Nail changes were found in 27.5% of subjects, the commonest nail change being pitting. Nail changes were more common in moderate and severe AA. The results are discussed and communicated.

Key words: Alopecia areata, atopic dermatitis, thyroid disorder, ophiasis