

## OCCUPATIONAL ALOPECIA IN VARIOUS WORKERS AFTER EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL AGENTS.

C. Frati, B. Bevilacqua, M.G. Battisti and G. Pizzutelli

### ABSTRACT

It is pointed out that the importance of professional alopecia may sometimes be underestimated. Different types of professional alopecia depending on the causal agent are distinguished: physical, chemical, biological, and pharmacological. In 48 out of 51 patients we found no professional aetiology. On the contrary, in 3 out of 51 patients we were able to detect an exogenous professional agent causing alopecia. The agents involved in our 3 cases of professional alopecia were: boric acid salts, thallium salts, and colchicine. In all 3 patients there was no evidence of inflammatory lesions, telangectasia or scars. The complete resolution of the disease after removing the specific causal agent confirmed an exogenous aetiology. Treatment with cystine seems to have been beneficial.

### KEY WORDS

occupational alopecia, boric acid, thallium salts, colchicine, cystine

---

### INTRODUCTION

Alopecia indicates a pathological absence of hair in a restricted area, but this term is used also to illustrate a mild and widespread reduction of hair (1). We would like to point

out that the importance of professional alopecia is sometimes underestimated.

Professional alopecia can be grouped, depending on the

