

## PEARLS

Do not assume that all scalp pruritus in black women is attributable to seborrheic dermatitis or frequency of hair washing. Instead, consider pruritus as a potential early indication of the inflammatory infiltrate of a scarring alopecia.

Do not assume that all hair breakage experienced by women with textured hair is attributable to inadequate moisturization or certain hair styling practices. Callender and Sperling have shown that in some cases, hair breakage is a forme fruste of CCCA.

Do not assume that women with frontotemporal hair loss, who attest to a history of high-tension hair styles, have traction alopecia. FFA in women of African descent may be more common than the existing literature suggests.

Patients may require prolonged treatment with systemic medication to dampen the inflammation that is driving their disease. Placing patients on a two-week course of doxycycline simply won't suffice to achieve this.

Empower your patient with information about her disease that will allow her to enlist her personal hair stylist as an ally in the treatment of her alopecia.

Patient education is key! Provide patients with the web address to the Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation (CARFintl.org). CARF provides patients educational resources, access to support groups, information about clinical trials and research studies, and a wealth of other information geared toward improving the lives of those affected by scarring alopecia