

# Letter to the Editor

## Pediatric Halo Scalp Ring

To the Editor:

In 2 *Cutis*<sup>®</sup> articles involving alopecia—Sarifakioglu et al<sup>1</sup> presented evidence on the prevalence of pediatric scalp alopecia, and Mirza et al<sup>2</sup> discussed the potential etiologies of pressure alopecia—both examined the differential diagnosis of the condition; however, the entity of halo scalp ring in early infancy was not mentioned. Halo scalp ring is a common etiology of alopecia in newborns and results from a similar mechanism as pressure alopecia in adults. Halo scalp ring is believed to be caused by pressure from prolonged compression by the cervix on the scalp during delivery, resulting in sloughing of neonatal hair.<sup>3</sup> The loss of hair from halo scalp ring likely is accentuated by the normal evolution of neonatal hair shedding. It is a benign finding that is not associated with systemic symptoms and causes mild hair loss that resolves over the course of months. It generally does not have long-term sequelae, though scarring has been reported in the literature in severe cases involving skin injury.<sup>4,5</sup> Risk factors for the disorder include primigravida births, premature rupture of membranes, prolonged labor, and caput succedaneum. Although the incidence of halo scalp ring is unknown, the disorder is underdiagnosed in the clinic and underrepresented in the literature.<sup>3,5</sup>

As pediatricians, we were intrigued there was no mention of the common manifestation of halo scalp ring, which seems pertinent to both of these *Cutis*

articles. We believe that halo scalp ring should be considered in the differential diagnosis of pediatric alopecia, as a greater awareness of this benign disorder will offer answers of reassurance to concerned and anxious parents of newborns. Halo scalp ring is a relatively common finding, and once recognized, its prevalence increases to the learned eye.

Sincerely,

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The authors report no conflict of interest.

### REFERENCES

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