

Table 2 Patient and treatment variables analysed using the Cox Proportional Hazards Model

Patient variables	P-value	Exp(β)
Age at onset of AA	0.79	1.05
Disease duration	0.96	0.99
Age at onset of therapy	0.86	0.97
Type of AA	0.038*	
Family history	0.91	1.08
History of atopy	0.90	1.07
History of DM	0.84	0.81
History of thyroid disease	0.73	1.56
History of nail affection	0.89	1.09
Treatment variables		
% of DPC at onset of hair growth	0.054	0.38
Highest DPC % reached	0.69	1.07

AA, alopecia areata; DM, diabetes mellitus; DPC, Diphencyprone.

*P-value statistically significant.

In the group of patients with Grade 1 AA (25–49%), 100% (11/11) of patients achieved excellent response in a median time of 6 ± 0.4 months (95% CI 5.3–8.5 m). In patients with Grade 2 AA (50–74%), 77% (7/9) achieved excellent response in a median time of 12 ± 0.8 months. In patients with more extensive Grade 3

AA (75–99%), 54% (15/28) achieved excellent response in a median time of 12 ± 0.8 months. In the AA totalis group, 50% (11/22) of patients achieved excellent response in a median of 12 ± 1.17 months, and finally in the AA universalis group 41% (11/27) of patients achieved excellent response in a median of 18 ± 5.5 months (figs 1 and 2; Table 3).

Treatment variables

Treatment variables assessed were the percentage of DPC at the time of onset of terminal hair growth and the highest percentage of DPC reached. None of the treatment variables affected the prognosis. Three of 21 children (all above 11 years) needed and received concentration of 2.5% during the course of therapy. 5% DPC was used in a few selected cases (a total of seven cases). Four of these seven showed initial response, but duration of irritation decreased to <48 h, so DPC concentration was raised to achieve excellent response, which occurred. 5% DPC was well tolerated by these patients, and maintenance therapy with 5% DPC for 40–48 months was continued with no side-effects and no relapse of AA. In the remaining three, there was poor response and a similar decrease in the duration of irritation, so the concentration of DPC was raised to 5% before considering them as treatment failures.

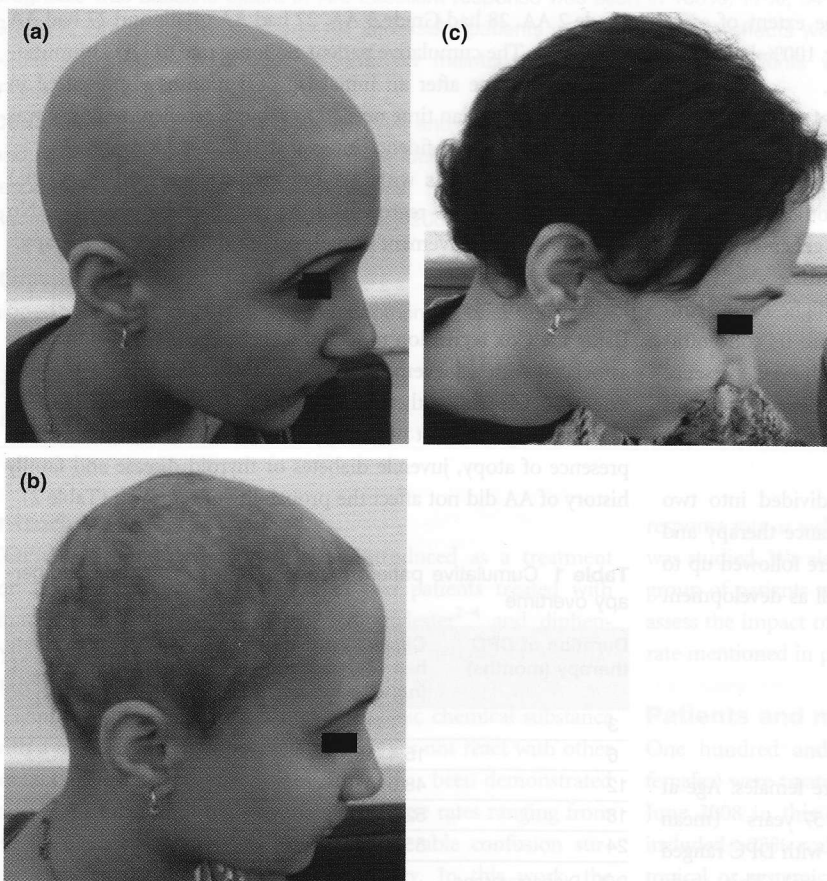


Figure 1 (a) Alopecia universalis patient before treatment; (b) 6 months after Diphencyprone therapy; (c) 1-year after therapy with excellent response.