



## *Alopecia Areata*

Alopecia areata typically consists of round to oval patchy areas of complete hair loss. These are usually located on the scalp or in the beard area, but can be widespread. **The cause is unknown and the course is unpredictable.** Alopecia areata is thought to be “autoimmune” in nature, related to your body’s immune system attacking your hair follicles. It usually responds well to treatment, but recurrences are common and persistent patches of loss sometimes occur. Extensive loss is often more difficult to improve.

Treatment for localized alopecia areata most commonly consists of topical steroids or steroid injections. Injections will sometimes leave a depression in the scalp (this is usually temporary). Other treatments are considered for extensive or persistent disease.

Since the cause of alopecia areata is unknown and the course is unpredictable, we encourage you to contact the national foundation to help increase your understanding.

National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
710 C Street Suite 11  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Phone: 415-456-4644  
Fax: 415-456-4274  
E-mail: [naaf@compuserve.com](mailto:naaf@compuserve.com)  
Web: [www alopeciaareata.com](http://www alopeciaareata.com)

Although we certainly feel that your condition is a significant medical problem, insurance companies vary on whether they cover evaluation and/or treatment of alopecia areata.

***For Questions or Emergency Care:***

Call the office at **601-815-3374**. You may need to speak with the doctor on-call.