Approach to Hair and Scalp Disorders in Children with Skin of Color

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Some take away points:

- The differential diagnosis for the scaly pediatric scalp includes tinea capitis, seborrheic dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and sebopsoriasis.

- Oils applied to the scalp may camouflage the seborrheic dermatitis variant of tinea capitis and impact the accuracy of fungal culture results.

- If there is scalp alopecia, scaling and occipital lymphadenopathy, the fungal culture will likely overwhelmingly be positive.

- In the setting of griseofulvin failures for tinea capitis, check the dose, evaluate the length of time the medication was given, check the fungal culture report and examine other siblings in the household. Terbinafine is efficacious for \( t. \) tonsurans.

- The use of shampoo and conditioner in the setting of tinea capitis may help decrease household spread.

- Traction alopecia may begin in childhood. Early intervention is crucial including the avoidance of pain-inducing hairstyles.

- In the setting of hair that parents claim “just will not grow,” education about breakage and hair care is extremely important.