

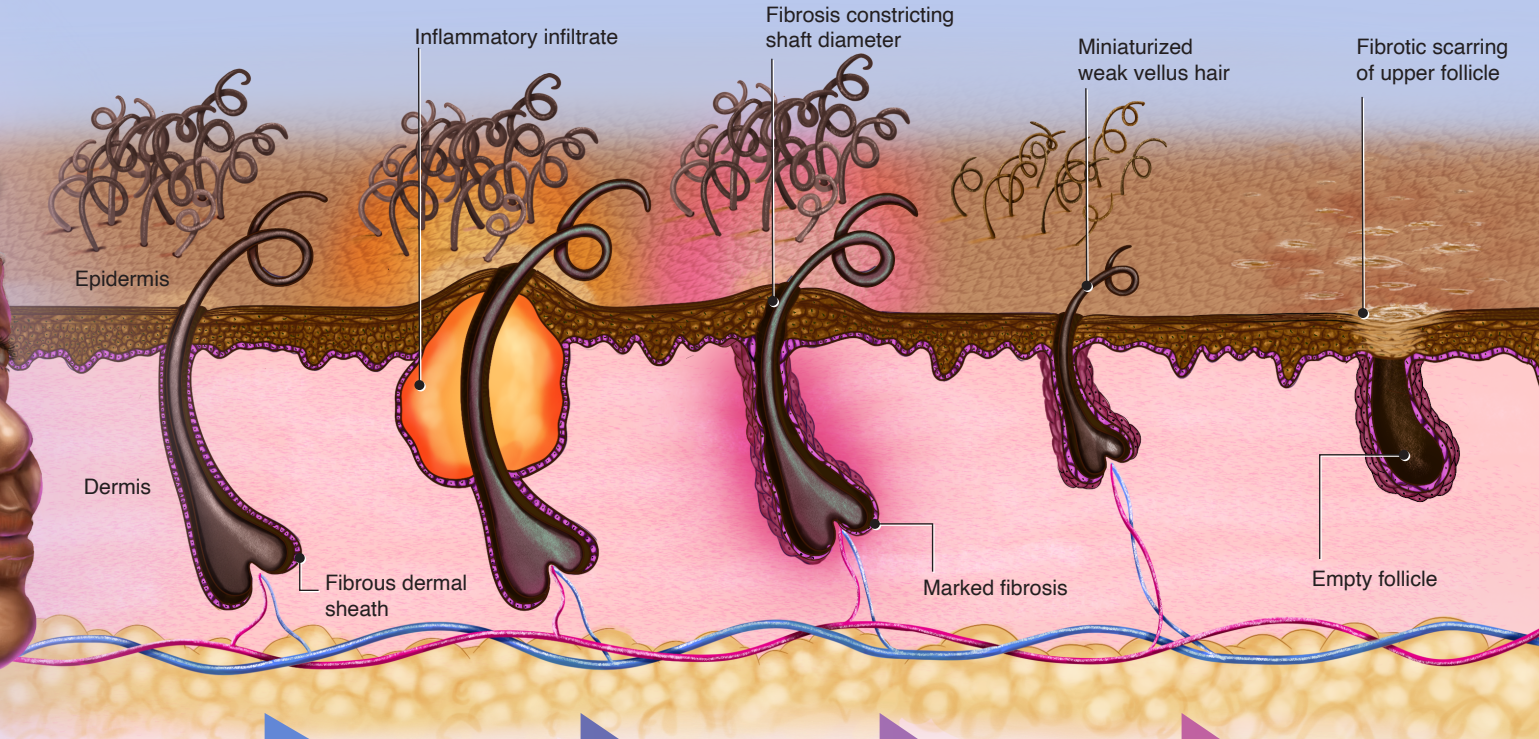
FRONTAL FIBROSING ALOPECIA

Frontal fibrosing alopecia (FFA) is a type of patterned scarring hair loss characterized by a gradual recession of the hairline, primarily affecting women. The cause is uncertain, but genetics, environmental factors, autoimmunity,

and hormones are likely important factors. Postmenopausal women are particularly susceptible to FFA due to declining levels of estrogen, which has a protective effect on hair follicles.

Early signs of FFA include scalp itch or discomfort that may be accompanied by subtle facial papules along the hairline. Hairline recession and eyebrow thinning may follow. A biopsy may be necessary to diagnose FFA.

As FFA can lead to permanent hair loss, halting progression is a goal of treatment. Treatment may include topical therapies, oral medications, and steroid injections to the scalp.



Symptoms

1. Inflammation and redness around hair follicles
2. Symmetrical hairline recession
3. Smooth, shiny skin in areas of loss
4. Possible loss of eyebrows
5. Possible body hair loss

Healthy hair follicle

In its initial state, a healthy hair follicle undergoes a regular growth cycle. This is characterized by the production of healthy and resilient hair strands.

Inflammation

Frontal fibrosing alopecia causes the hair follicle to become inflamed. This leads to redness, itching, and irritation in the affected fibrosing area.

Scarring

Prolonged inflammation results in scarring around the hair follicles. This causes them to gradually lose their functionality.

Miniaturization

Over time, the hair follicles undergo miniaturization, diminishing in size and producing finer, thinner hairs that are increasingly fragile.

Hair loss

This leads to irreversible hair loss due to the destruction and replacement of hair follicles with permanently damaged scar tissue.