

FOUNDATIONS OF TRICHOSCOPY FOR HAIR DISORDERS

INTRODUCING HEALTHCERT EDUCATION

HealthCert Education is a global professional education provider dedicated to saving lives and improving patient outcomes through accredited primary care education for medical professionals. HealthCert Education does not accept sponsorship or commercial interest investment when delivering course content.

PREREQUISITES (MANDATORY)

There are no prerequisites.

COURSE CONTENT

This course provides a structured foundation in trichoscopy—the dermoscopic examination of the hair and scalp—to help primary care practitioners and skin specialists confidently assess and manage common hair disorders. Participants will learn to identify key trichoscopic patterns in conditions such as androgenic alopecia, alopecia areata, telogen effluvium, traction alopecia, trichotillomania, and scarring alopecias. Through high-quality clinical images, case-based content, and diagnostic flowcharts, the course explores hair shaft abnormalities, follicular unit changes, vascular signs, and pigment patterns. By applying these visual diagnostic criteria, practitioners will be better equipped to distinguish between scarring and non-scarring hair loss, improve diagnostic accuracy, and make informed decisions about treatment or referral in general practice.

This course is evidence-based, demonstrates best practice and is regularly updated.

RELEVANCE TO GENERAL PRACTICE:

Trichoscopy involves examination of the scalp and hair using a handheld or a videodermoscopy device. Examination with a dermatoscope (trichoscope) can reassure patients that they have received a thorough scalp examination and provide the clinician with invaluable in vivo information about scalp and hair shaft pathology.¹

Male baldness is very common. Its effect on individuals is extremely variable, and in some people it will have a significant adverse effect on their quality of life.²

Female pattern hair loss (FPHL) is a commonly encountered clinical presentation in primary care. Patterned hair loss in women is characterised by diffuse hair thinning and often becomes an ongoing cause of psychosocial distress. Alopecia can be the first symptom of systemic illness. It is therefore crucial for the primary care physician to be able to differentiate between FPHL and more concerning causes of hair loss.³

1. DermNet, Trichoscopy, 2022 <https://dermnetnz.org/topics/trichoscopy>
2. AFP, Male Baldness, 2016 <https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2016/april/male-baldness>
3. AJGP, Female pattern hair loss, 2018 <https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2018/july/female-pattern-hair-loss>

LEARNING OUTCOME:

1. Determine trichoscopy patterns of non-scarring alopecia for diagnosis of this condition.
2. Distinguish features of cicatricial alopecia and apply to clinical cases.

PRESENTER:

This course is presented by Prof Richard Usatine.

RECORDING:

Listen and learn about the foundations of trichoscopy for hair disorders. The recording can be paused at any point to reflect on content and has a sophisticated search option for locating specific topics. You can copy and paste key slides into your personal document for ongoing reference.

RECOMMENDED READING:

FOUNDATIONS OF TRICHOSCOPY FOR HAIR DISORDERS

There are recommended open access readings and articles to enhance learning.

CASE DISCUSSIONS:

There are interactive case discussions to reinforce learning, where participants are encouraged to research, view other responses and discuss topics with other participants. Expert answers are provided once case discussions are submitted.

ASSESSMENT:

There are two online multiple choice examinations for assessment:

- Knowledge-based questions.
- Scenario-based questions with a focus on cases of patient care in the clinical environment.

Assessment is not timed and can be repeated if the 80% pass mark is not achieved with the first attempt.

ACCREDITATION:

HealthCert courses align with the continuing professional development accreditation requirements.

EVALUATION:

An evaluation at the end of the course enables HealthCert Education to continually improve education content.

FUTURE PATHWAY OPTIONS:

Further topics relating to mental health can be viewed on www.healthcert.com. An online chat option on the web page provides you direct access to an Educational Advisor or, if you prefer email, info@healthcert.com. If you would like to speak to an educational advisor, please call 1300 856 695 (Australia) or +44 203 514 0688 (international).

CONTACT HEALTHCERT

Please contact admin@healthcert.com with any questions.

VERSION CONTROL TABLE

All changes must be approved by the Head of Academic Standards or Head of Accreditation.

Version no.	Version date	Authorised officer	Amendment details
1.			
2.			