Hypertrichosis in alopecia universalis and complex regional pain syndrome

Figure 1 Alopecia universalis in a 46-year-old woman with complex regional pain syndrome I

Figure 2 Hypertrichosis of the fifth digit of the complex regional pain syndrome-affected hand

This 46-year-old woman developed complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) I in the right hand after distortion of the wrist. Ten years before, the diagnosis of alopecia areata was made with subsequent complete loss of scalp and body hair (alopecia universalis; figure 1). Apart from sensory, motor, and autonomic changes, most strikingly, hypertrichosis of the fifth digit was detectable on the right hand (figure 2).

Hypertrichosis is common in CRPS.¹ The underlying mechanisms are poorly understood and may involve increased neurogenic inflammation.² This case nicely illustrates the powerful hair growth stimulus in CRPS.

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