Hypertrichosis in alopecia universalis and complex regional pain syndrome

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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