NEW AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL TRIALS PROVIDE HOPE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALOPECIA AREATA

Professor Rodney Sinclair, Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD), is principal investigator in two clinical trials in alopecia areata in Australia.

Alopecia areata is the most common autoimmune disease and people of all ages are affected. It is characterised by non-scarring hair loss in single or multiple areas of the scalp, face or body. One person in 50 will experience an episode of alopecia areata.

Researchers at New York’s Colombia University have already identified two available tablets that help prevent alopecia and two available creams that may reverse hair loss.

Rodney Sinclair from the ACD says: “The Australian clinical trials for alopecia areata test a new class of anti-inflammatory drugs- Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors. For the first time in Australia, we are seeing systemic therapies for male and female pattern hair loss that consistently lead to hair regrowth.”

The Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation (AAAF) was founded in 2010 with the purpose of improving the lives of people living with alopecia areata and their families.

Georgia Gardner from AAAF says: “AAAF is dedicated to supporting research into alopecia areata. We have provided a range of grants and supported studies into both the medical and psychological impact of this condition. We hope that new research, clinical trials and the use of new drugs and creams can help with the treatment of alopecia areata.”

Alopecia Areata Awareness Week is in the third week of November and on the 18 to 19 November, AAAF are holding an Alopecia areata adventure camp at Taronga Western Plains Zoon in Dubbo, NSW. The camp is free for kids with alopecia and is an opportunity for them to learn about the condition and make friends.

Tracey Turco, an alopecia areata patient says: “Alopecia does not just result in hair loss, it also results in a constant battle with your identity and self-esteem. You literally become a different person how you see yourself, how others treat you and how you cope with things, sometimes, literally, overnight.”

Prof Sinclair says: “We hope that our clinical trials in alopecia areata at Sinclair Dermatology are successful and that this will lead to new research break throughs that can eventually help all Australians who suffer from hair loss as a result of alopecia areata.”

References


Links to further information
Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation website
Sinclair Dermatology
A-Z of Skin
Find a local dermatologist

For further information on the ACD, visit www.dermcoll.edu.au, or see our updates on Facebook or Twitter at @DermatologyACD #dermcoll or LinkedIn

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The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

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