

DPCP Application for Alopecia Areata

DPCP (Diphenylcyclopropenone) is a topical medication used for treating alopecia areata (AA). DPCP acts as a local allergen, triggering an immune response which helps promote hair growth. A sensitization dose will be applied to your scalp to start the stimulation of your immune system. Leave the patch test in place anywhere from 8 hours for up to 2 days. The bandage may be removed once redness, early blistering (or bumps), and intense itching is noted. Avoid touching the scalp for 6 hours after DPCP sensitization dose is applied. Avoid washing hair for 48 hours after DPCP sensitization.

After one week, you can begin treating your scalp with DPCP. Start by treating half the scalp at first. Apply the medication to half of the scalp with a flat tipped toothpick, wooden Q-tip stick, or similar object. Wash area with soap in the morning. Avoid normal hair-bearing surrounding skin if possible. No coverage during the day is needed.

Start by treating the same half of the scalp once a week for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, increase frequency to twice a week on non-consecutive nights, still treating only the same half of the scalp. Continue this twice weekly frequency until your next follow up appointment. Depending upon your response, the strength of your at-home DPCP concentration may be increased.

Remember, the goal is to maintain a persistent but low-grade reaction (pink/red skin reaction) at every treatment site. If excessive reaction/blister occurs, stop therapy until it resolves. When able, restart every 2-3 nights and proceed as tolerated. This may indicate a need to dilute the concentration of DPCP. Topical steroids in general should be avoided while using DPCP as this counteracts the goal of DPCP, namely creating a low-grade localized immune response.

If a rash appears in an area other than that being treated, this may mean that the DPCP is inadvertently being transferred to areas not intended for treatment. Call the office if this occurs.

Please contact Dr. Aziz Pharmacy to arrange delivery/pickup of your medication

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