# Abstract

**Introduction:**

Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE) and Lichen Planopilaris are two main causes of primary cicatricial alopecias. Pathological evaluation of scalp biopsy specimens can be a good diagnostic method to differentiate between them. LPP affects the patient's quality of life due to its symptomatic nature and causing permanent alopecia. Therefore, its accurate diagnosis and early treatment seem to be necessary. In this study, we dealt with accurate evaluation of histopathological findings of clinically and pathologically confirmed LPP specimens.

**Method:**

In this descriptive retrospective study in pathology departments of Mashhad and Shahid Beheshti Medical Universities from January 2007 to January 2008, vertical scalp biopsy specimens of 44 patients with clinical and pathological diagnosis of LLP were precisely reviewed using H&E and Alcian Blue stains. To state the alopecia severity, the number of follicles was compared with the criterion obtained by counting follicles in vertical sections of healthy subjects’ autopsies. Finally, the findings were statistically analyzed using SPSS 15.

**Results:**

Common findings in patients included reduced density of hair follicles, lack of vellus hair, lichenoid follicular changes, follicular plugging, lack of arrector pili muscle and sebaceous glands, perivascular and perifollicular lymphocyte infiltration.

**Conclusion:**

This study confirmed many of the already reported histopathological results for LPP, and for the first time presented a criterion to state the intensity of reduction in follicular density in vertical sections. Because of seeing mucin in interfollicular dermis in one case, a prospective study on LPP samples using DIF and Alcian Blue staining is suggested.