

# ALOPECIA AREATA SCALE (AASc)

## A Multidimensional Assessment Tool for Clinical Use

### ALOPECIA AREATA SCALE (AASc)

#### Primary Criterion—Severity of Scalp Hair Loss

Mild AA  
**20% or less**  
scalp hair loss

Moderate AA  
**21-49%**  
scalp hair loss

Severe AA  
**50-100%**  
scalp hair loss

#### Secondary Criteria

- Negative impact on psychosocial functioning resulting from AA
- Noticeable involvement of eyebrows or eyelashes
- Inadequate response after at least 6 months of treatment
- Diffuse (multifocal) positive hair pull test consistent with rapidly progressive AA

**If any secondary criteria are present, increase severity rating by one level.**

Several unidimensional assessments are used in Alopecia Areata (AA), including those that measure the percentage of scalp hair loss or extent of eyebrow or eyelash involvement. However, they do not fully characterize the clinical spectrum of disease severity and its manifestations. **To facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of disease severity in AA, eyebrow and eyelash involvement, treatment-refractory disease, rapid progression, and psychosocial impact should also be considered.**

#### Clinical Scale for Assessing Severity in AA

The Alopecia Areata Scale (AASc) is a multidimensional assessment tool designed to more effectively and consistently evaluate the severity of AA in clinical practice.

Developed by a consensus of 22 disease area experts and unanimously endorsed, the AASc incorporates exam findings and elements of patient history into a descriptive severity rating that is relevant to clinical practice. It prioritizes the amount of scalp hair loss as the primary determinant of disease severity in AA. The severity rating increases if any of the secondary criteria are present (see table above).

#### Assessing Psychosocial Impact in AA

The psychosocial impact of disease is frequently mentioned by patients with AA during clinical encounters. Direct questioning may be helpful in cases where this is less clear.

**How would you rate the impact of AA on your quality of life on a scale of 0 (none) to 10 (very negative impact)?** Scores of 6 or above are indicative of a significant psychosocial impact.

#### How has AA affected your daily activities?

Age-related activities (i.e., school, sports, interaction with peers, job performance, dating, and relationships) may also demonstrate psychosocial impact.



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AA – alopecia areata; AASc – Alopecia Areata Severity Scale.

Reference: King BA, Mesinkovska NA, Craiglow B, et al. Development of the alopecia areata scale for clinical use: Results of an academic-industry collaborative effort. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2022;86(2):359-364. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2021.08.043

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