Alopecia Mucinosa
**Follicular mucinosis** is characterized clinically by grouped erythematous papules and/or plaques that may be markedly indurated or nodular. It is found in hair follicles. It can be classified into two types: a primary (idiopathic) type and a secondary variety. The primary form tends to have a shorter but benign course. The secondary type has been associated with numerous benign and malignant conditions, including lymphomas, of which the majority are mycosis fungoides. A distinct variant of mycosis fungoides.
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fungoides-follicular mycosis fungoides-may or may not be associated with follicular mucinosis.

The primary form tends to affect children and young adults more frequently and resolves spontaneously in several months (acute benign type) or several years (chronic benign type). It is often confined to the head and neck but may be disseminated. The secondary type tends to form more widespread plaques and is almost always a disorder of adults.
The secondary type has been found in association with other lymphoproliferative disorders, including Hodgkin's disease.
There has been controversy about whether the histopathology allows for distinction between the primary and secondary forms of Alopecia mucinosa.
Others have reported that adults older than the age of 40 years with widespread follicular mucinosis are
In 1957, Pinkus described *alopecia mucinosa*, the term used when follicular mucinosis affects terminal
Histopathology
Within the outer root sheath and sebaceous gland epithelium, there is reticular epithelial degeneration that sometimes demonstrates that the mucin is predominantly hyaluronic acid. Colloidal iron stain may also be used for its detection.
Inflammation is composed of lymphocytes and histiocytes, but there can also be eosinophils. There may...
follicular mucinosis (primary or secondary), features that have been proposed as favoring a lymphoma-asso-

*Pathogenesis*
Electron microscopic studies have shown that the mucin is a product of the outer root sheath epithelial cells. The mucin is excreted through the intercellular spaces. In two of our patients with primary, idiopathic alopecia mucinosa, we found, using transverse sections, an increased number of resting-phase follicles, mostly catagen, ranging from 46% to 92% of all terminal follicles (unpublished observation).