Alopecia areata (AA) is a common form of hair loss in humans; it is an autoimmune disorder with a vector, usually relapsing or remitting course that can be persistent – particularly when hair loss is extensive. After male and female pattern alopecia, alopecia areata is the most common non-scarring alopecia. Hair loss in alopecia areata typically has distinct clinical trends. A slight annular or patchy bald lesion (patchy alopecia areata) on the scalp is the most common pattern, which may progress to complete loss of scalp hair (alopecia totalis) and total loss of all body hair (alopecia universalis). The immune system attacks your body when you have an autoimmune disease. The hair follicles are the ones that are attacked in alopecia areata. Doctors are baffled as to why this occurs. However, they believe that people who get it have a gene that makes it more likely. The hair loss is then triggered by something. Find out more about the causes of alopecia. Alopecia areata is an autoimmune disorder that causes your hair to come out, often in clumps the size and shape of a quarter. The amount of hair loss is different in everyone. Some people lose it only in a few spots. Others lose a lot. Sometimes, hair grows back but falls out again later. In others, hair grows back for good. Alopecia areata is an autoimmune condition in which the hair falls out in clumps the size and shape of a fifth. The amount of hair loss varies from person to person. Some people just lose it in a few places. Others suffer significant losses. Hair grows back in some cases, but then falls out again. In some, hair regrows permanently. Alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease. This means that your immune system mistakenly attacks a part of your body. When you have alopecia areata, cells in your immune system surround and attack your hair follicles (the part of your body that makes hair). Alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease. This means that your immune system mistakenly attacks a part of your body. When you have alopecia areata, cells in your immune system surround and attack your hair follicles (the part of your body that makes hair). This attack on a hair follicle causes the attached hair to fall out. The more hair follicles that your immune system attacks, the more hair loss you will have. It’s important to know that while this attack causes hair loss, the attack rarely destroys the hair follicles. This means that your hair can regrow. The less hair loss you have, the more likely it is that your hair will regrow on its own. Studies have found that people with certain autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis, have a vitamin D deficiency. Because alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease, scientists have looked at the vitamin D levels in people who have alopecia areata. Some people did have a vitamin D deficiency, but others didn’t. More research is needed before we know whether low levels of vitamin D play a role in causing this disease.