

**Reply to: Comment on “Association of alopecia areata with hospitalization for mental health disorders in US adults”**



*To the Editor:* I thank Kawada<sup>1</sup> for his comments on our study of the association of alopecia areata (AA) with hospitalization for mental health disorders.<sup>2</sup> We found significantly higher odds of hospitalization for a variety of mental health disorders, including schizophrenia.<sup>2</sup> Kawada pointed out that some of these findings conflicted with previous studies. Further, he speculated that some of the positive findings were likely attributable to increased severity of AA in our inpatient cohort. We entirely agree. More severe AA is associated with a greater impact on quality of life and psychosocial distress. AA patients hospitalized with mental health disorders likely had more severe AA, such as extensive patchy alopecia, alopecia totalis, or alopecia universalis. As such, our results might not be generalizable to patients with milder patchy AA. We agree that future studies are needed that can distinguish the relationship between AA severity and mental health hospitalizations.

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