Doctor Lists Grooming Errors That Can Cause Baldness

Mothers, think twice before you pull your daughter's hair up into that cute, but tight, little ponytail. If you do it too often the tension on the hair roots could cause permanent baldness at the temples.

And, before you lean your head back into the washbowl for chemical treatment at the hairdresser's, be sure your beautician knows exactly what he or she is doing.

These are two of the mes sages that Dr. Wesley Wilborn, dermatologist, emphasizes to his patients and would like for other doctors to share with

Speaking at the derma-tology session of the National Medical Association (NMA) in Chicago recently, Dr. Wilborn, an Atlanta physician, told an overflow crowd of doctors of all disciplines that the most common hair and scalp problem he's encountered in his predominantly black practice is caused by frontal line and the temples, is using rubber band ornaments to achieve

a straight hair look by employing tension. "The hair is pulled back so tightthat it is slowly up-

tension on the hair roots.

'The second most common form of hair loss is that caused by chemical straightening agents of -'perms,'" he said.

Wilborn, who has practiced dermatology for more than 13 years, said that more than 10 percent of his patients have some type of scalp problem.

His concern for the problems he has seen led him to develop formulas for a line of hair care products now being marketed under the brand name X-Ception by W&W Pharname maceuticals, Inc.

"Blacks alter their hair for two basic reasons," Dr. Wilborn told the NMA group. "to promote ease of grooming and to permit a variety of hairstyles." He noted that to achieve these objectives, a variety of techniques and chemicals are used.

The technique that he warns against most often and which can cause permanent hair loss at the

rooted from the outer margin of the scalp inward," he

"If this type of trauma is continued throughout childhood, a teenager emerges who is literally bald at the temples," he warned.

He also noted that when heat or chemical straightening are used, the tension usually occurs from using

Poor application technique and improper selection of the chemical straightening agent can cause hair loss in people with "perms," Dr. Wilborn

"The chemicals are capable of dissolving the hair shaft entirely if left on too long," he cautioned. Short of that, the hair shaft can be weakened, with break-

age resulting.
"The lower part of the scalp and the nape of the neck are most often af-fected," Dr. Wilborn said. His discussions with many hairstylists have led him to conclude that improper

rinsing of the hair resting on the shampoo bowl ould cause the problem

Dr. Wilborn also said that many people find that certain curl maintenance products (activators and moisturizers) aggravate seborrheic dermatitis or dry, itchy scalp. These products can also induce inflammation of the skin around the ears, scalp margins and neck. "Products containing lanolin. cholesterol, squalene and other fatty molecules appear to be the major

offenders," he said.

Dr. Wilborn cautioned care when hot combing hair to prevent the hot pressing compound from seeping into the scalp pores and he warned against forceful combing of kinky hair that has not been moisturized or lubricated.

Dr. Wilborn, president of W&W Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is also clinical associate professor of dermatology at the Emory University School Medicine.

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After 22 years in the Hair Care Business working at Double Oaks Barber Shop, Ike's Barber Shop, Ronnies Unisex, Ronnies Beatties Fd., Mini Mirror and Now at Ronnies Beauty & Barber I've witnessed more than my share of hair problems. Problems basically stem from individuals not knowing the importance of treatments after perms, or of merely combing and brushing the hair, proper shampoos and conditioners are also a must. Hair should be treated according to the texture

of YOUR hair rather than

the effect a product has on

another's hair. The effect of perms and recreations, such as tennis and swimming (sun & water), after these immediate shampooing and conditioning is necessary. To blow dry your hair without proper shampooing can damage the hair. The effects dirt elements have on the hair can be crucial. For more hints and to solve those hair care problems, see

Ronnie earned his degree from Modern Barber College, Winston-Salem, N.C., was a Road Technician for Sof N' Silky for 2 years, and won the Detroit Hair Styling Show, the only year he

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