

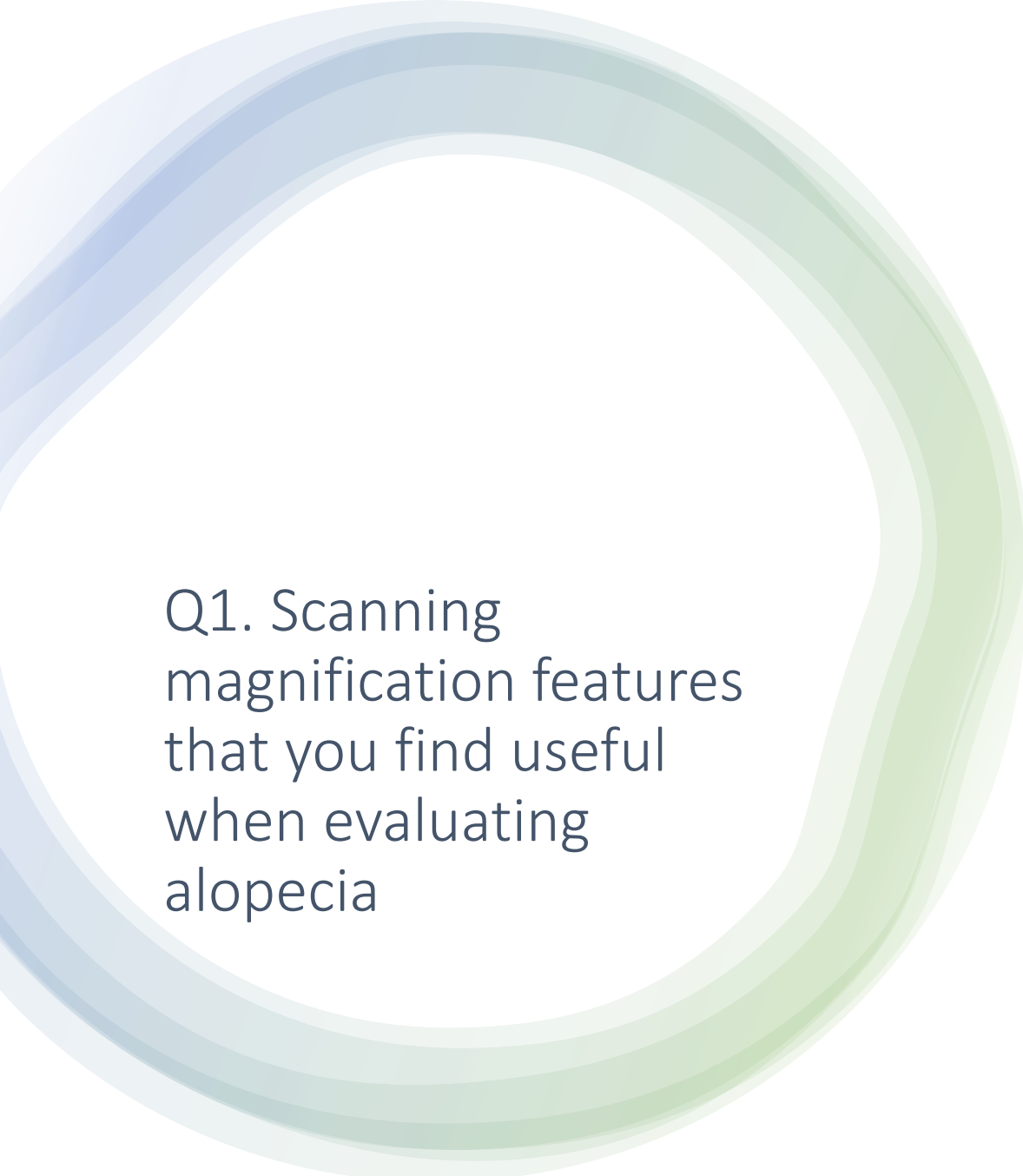
Q&A session: “Histopathology of Alopecia”

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Q1. Scanning
magnification features
that you find useful
when evaluating
alopecia





A1

- Scanning magnification is important to get the first assessment in a standard 4mm punch biopsy.
- The horizontally sectioned biopsy should be studied at all levels, from the hair bulb up to the infundibulum, as each level will deliver different types of information which eventually will be added up to render the diagnosis.



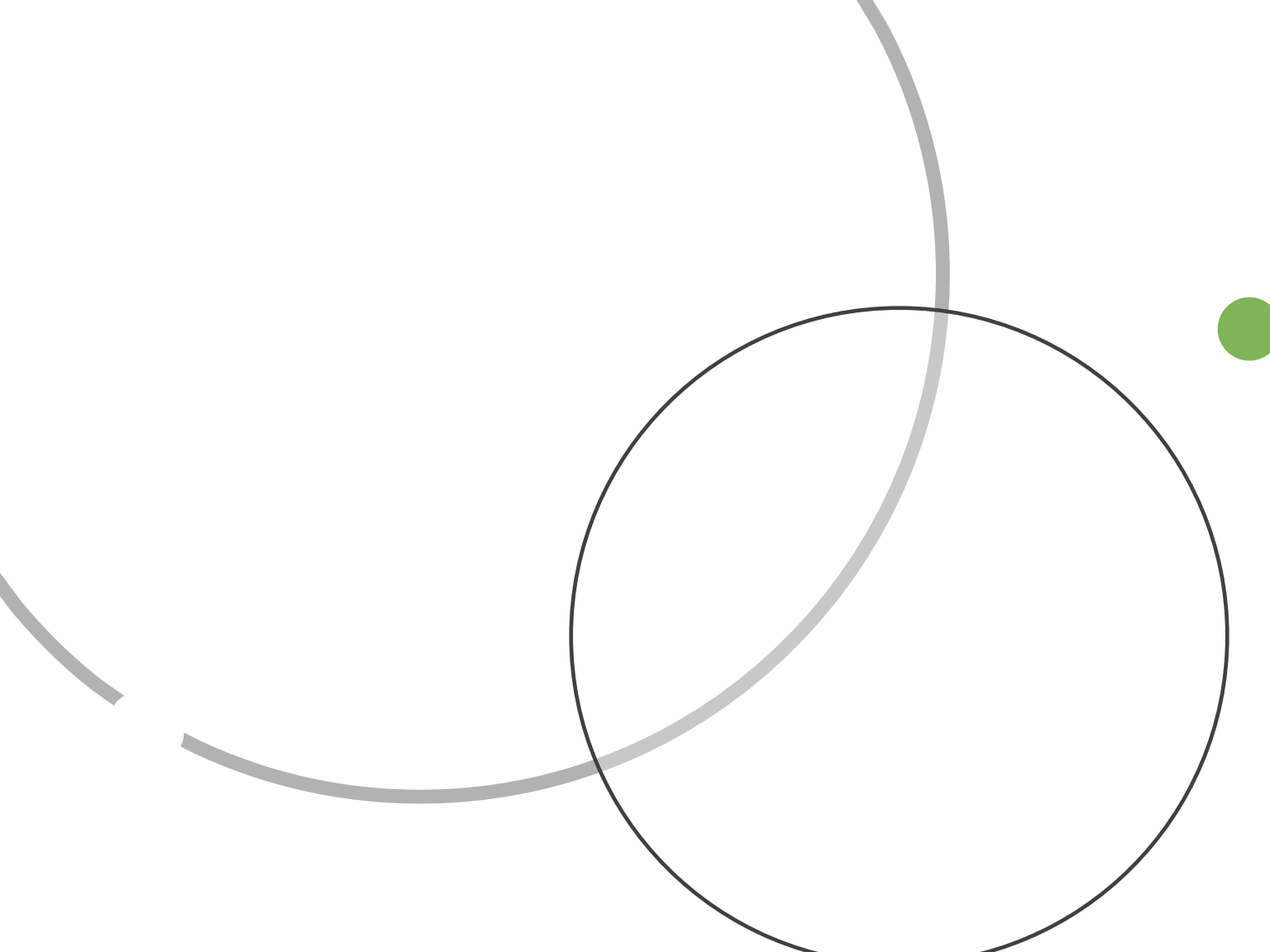
Specifically, the initial systematic scanning magnification approach at the microscope should be at all levels of the hair follicles:



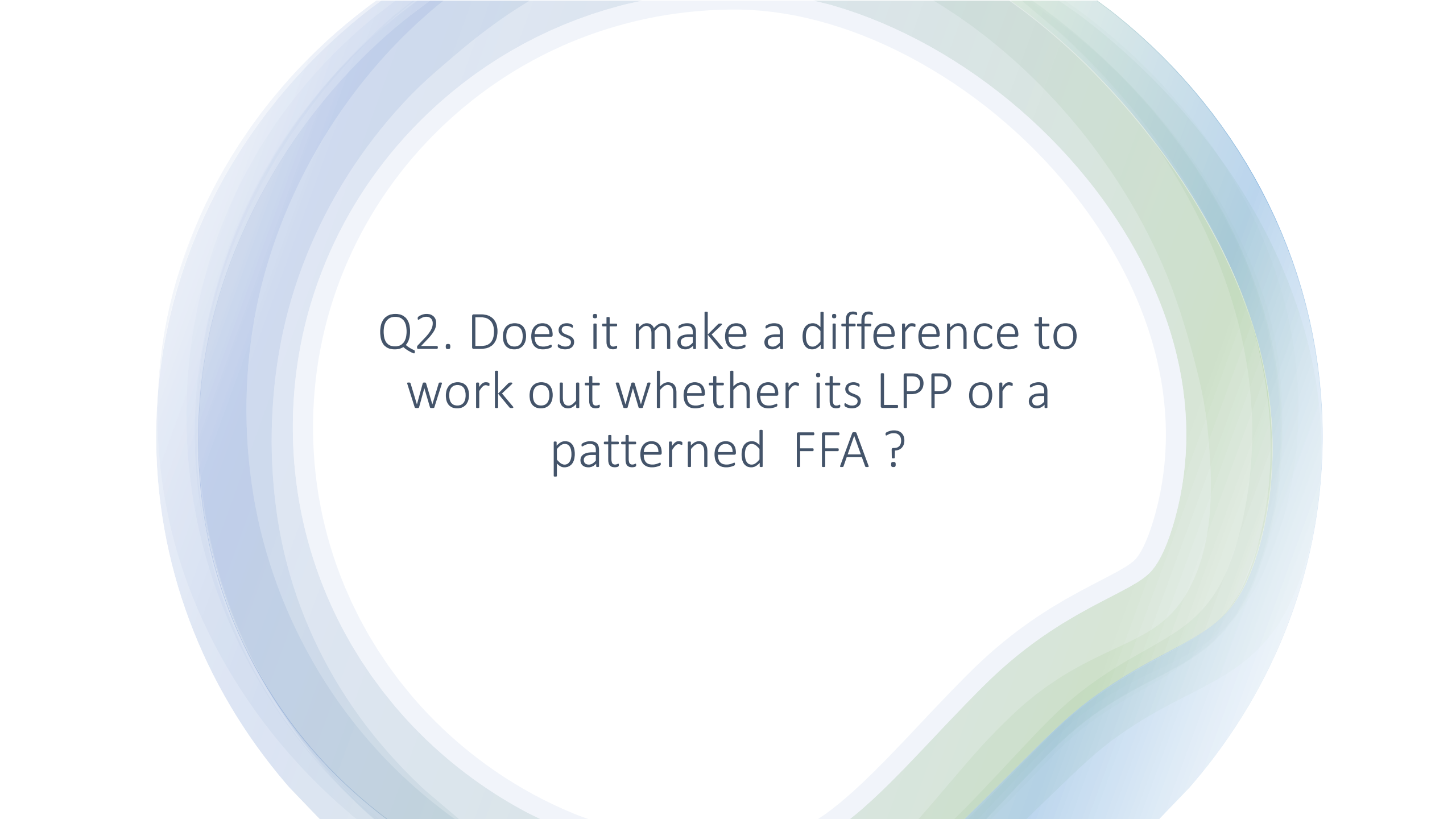
1. Bulb level: 1. Assess the state of health of the hair bulbs presence/absence of inflammation 2. Assess presence/absence of fibrous tracts (to rule out hair loss) and 3. presence/absence of pigment casts (to rule out bulb damage)

- 2. Inferior segment level: assess the state of health and symmetry of the inner and outer hair follicle sheaths



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- **3. Isthmus:** Assess the state of the follicular units: 1. Sebaceous glands present or absent. 2. Hair follicles present or absent. 3. Assess if there is perifollicular fibrosis and perifollicular lymphoid cell infiltrate. 4. Ascertain for miniaturization and for presence of vellus hair follicles and of telogen hair follicles

- 4. **Infundibulum:** Assess for perifollicular fibrosis and perifollicular lymphoid cell infiltrate.

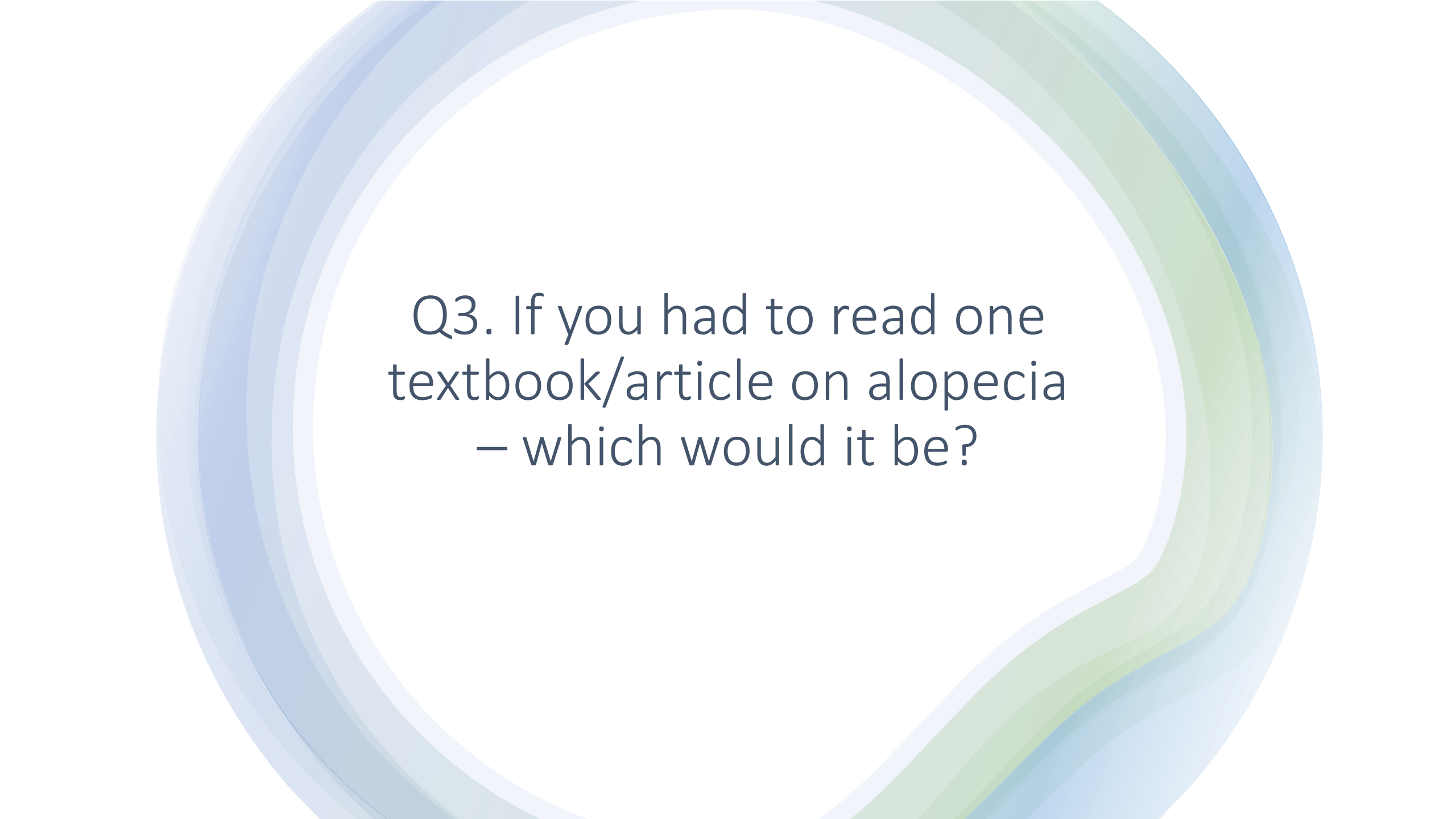


Q2. Does it make a difference to
work out whether its LPP or a
patterned FFA ?



A2

- FFA in my experience is the patterned variant of LPP. Histopathologically they have similar findings. There have been papers published pointing to distinguishing elements to distinguish between the two entities, but I still believe it is the same disease histopathologically, and clinicopathological correlation is the key to the final diagnosis..

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of blue and green, with a wavy line cutting through them from the bottom right.

Q3. If you had to read one
textbook/article on alopecia
– which would it be?



A3

- My top favourite alopecia book I recommend to keep on your desk is:
Leonard C Sperling, Shawn E. Cowper, Eleanor A Knopp: An Atlas of Hair pathology
with Clinical Correlations (second edition) Informa Healthcare 2012.
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