The scarring alopecias represent a diverse group of disorders that cause permanent destruction of the pilosebaceous unit and irreversible hair loss, characterized by: visible loss of follicular ostia, and destruction of the hair follicle on histopathologic examination. Loss of follicular orifices in an area of alopecia points to an irreversible loss of hair, either due to permanent damage to essential parts of the hair follicle or destruction of the entire hair follicle. Although the scarring alopecias represent the cause of alopecia in a minority of patients, the irreversibility and possible important cosmetic consequences of scarring alopecia demand special diagnostic attention in order to promptly attain a precise diagnosis and specific treatment. Scarring alopecias pose both a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge to the practitioner. Accurate diagnosis based on a careful patient history, clinical examination, microbiological studies, and scalp biopsy is a prerequisite to therapy. Problems related to the treatment of the scarring alopecias include: patients’ delay, when irreversible scarring has already occurred. Since the causes are mostly unknown, therapy has remained empiric and non-specific. Published data on recommended therapies have usually low levels of evidence. Ultimately, the goal of therapy is mostly to halt further progression. With expanding technologies for dissecting the immunologic and molecular basis, there is hope for a deeper understanding of the underlying pathogenesis and novel therapeutic interventions. Among these, currently, microarray analysis is used to identify disease associated gene expression patterns with the aims of further clarification of nosologic classifications and development of targeted therapies of the scarring alopecia. Ultimately, where end-stage fibrosis is established, combination with surgical treatment, such as scalp reduction plasty and autologous hair transplantation, and prosthetic help are taken into consideration.