

What is this medicine?

Your doctor has prescribed finasteride for you.

What is this medicine used for?

Finasteride is used to treat male pattern hair loss (androgenetic alopecia).

In the scalp, finasteride specifically lowers the levels of a male hormone (dihydrotestosterone), which is a major cause of male pattern hair loss. In this way, finasteride helps to reverse the balding process, leading to increased hair growth and prevention of further hair loss.

The improvement rate varies from person to person; it usually occurs after the medicine has been used for at least 3 months and lasts only as long as the medicine continues to be used. Hair loss will begin again within 3 to 6 months after treatment is stopped.

This medicine is also used for other conditions as determined by your doctor.

How should I use this medicine?

Finasteride is to be taken once a day. It can be taken with or without food. If you experience stomach upset, take the medication with food.

Do note that finasteride will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose. Just take the next tablet as usual. Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- Sexually-related side effects (decreased sexual desire, decreased ability to get an erection) - the side effects are reversible and often resolve during continued treatment or within days to weeks after treatment is discontinued.

Consult your doctor as soon as possible if any of these additional effects occur, as they may indicate more serious side effects:

- Allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; or hives)
- Changes in breast such as lumps, pain or fluids leaking from the nipple
- Pain in the testicles

What precautions should I take?

- *Inform your doctor if you have liver, prostate or urological diseases; any allergies.*
- *Finasteride may cause abnormalities to male fetus while administered to pregnant women. Women who are or may be pregnant should not touch nor handle finasteride. They should also stay away from crushed or broken tablets.*
- Do not donate blood while you are taking this medicine. This will prevent giving this medicine to a pregnant female through a blood transfusion.
- If patient wants to switch treatments (from minoxidil to finasteride and vice versa) it is generally recommended to have a 3-6 months overlap.
- Inform your doctor if you are planning to take or you are taking other medication or supplements.
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children
- Do not keep this medicine with other medications in the same container. Keep each medicine separately in labeled containers.

Finasteride

When in doubt, consult your doctor or
pharmacist.
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