

Finasteride

Finasteride prevents the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) in the body. Finasteride is primarily used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex (crown) and the anterior mid-scalp area. Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head.

The medicine will slow hair loss in around 50% of patients but may take up to 8-10 months for visible effects. In few patients it may even re-activate the follicles giving regrowth.

Before starting the medicine the surgeons at My Hair Clinic recommends that you make sure to take sufficient number of photos of your head and hair to have a baseline before the treatment starts.

My Hair Clinic recommends using Finasteride as soon as hair loss is noticed in the crown or midscalp, especially for patients less than 35 years of age. For patients above 35 years of age our surgeon may recommend Finasteride with surgery or only surgery.

Only in some cases will the surgeons at My Hair Clinic recommend or accepts patients for transplantation to the crown if the patient is below 35 years of age.

Finasteride is mostly known with the trade name of Propecia. In Pakistan it's also sold as Genesis 1 mg or Fina 1 mg.

Dosage

For hair loss 1mg Finasteride is usually recommended but may be reduced to .5 mg or even .25 mg daily in case of side effects. Take with or without food with a full glass of water.

Precautions

1. Finasteride should never be taken by a woman or a child unless explicitly advised by the surgeon/doctor. Finasteride can be absorbed through the skin, and women or children should not be permitted to even handle broken tablets with Finasteride!
2. Call your doctor at once if you notice any breast lumps, pain, nipple discharge, or other breast changes.
3. Inform your doctor if you suffer from
 - Liver disease
 - Prostate cancer
 - Bladder muscle disorder
 - Stricture of urethra
 - Having difficulty urinating
 - Have had an allergic reaction to Finasteride (propecia) or Dutasteride (Avodart)

Side effects

1. 2-3% of patients may experience decreased sexdrive or impotence, usually within the first month of usage. You may then use .5 mg or .25 mg. If you still suffer from these side effects even at the reduced dosage then you'll need to discontinue Finasteride
2. Call your doctor at once if you notice any breast lumps, pain, nipple discharge, or other breast changes.
3. Other side effects may occur.

Disclaimer

Please note that the above is NOT a complete list of all the effects, side effects and/or precautions or otherwise does not give complete information on Finasteride. Please consult your doctor before using this medicine.