

**Patient
Information**

Finasteride for women

Introduction

This leaflet will explain about finasteride and its use including side effects.

You have been prescribed Finasteride because you have been diagnosed with one of the following conditions: female pattern hair loss, lichen planopilaris, frontal fibrosing alopecia or hirsutism.

What is finasteride?

Finasteride is an inhibitor of 5-alpha reductase, an enzyme that converts (changes) testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) (the male hormones).

Finasteride is prescribed for conditions which are felt to be due to the accumulation (build up) of dihydrotestosterone (DHT) in tissues like hair follicles.

Use of finasteride in women

This medication is currently prescribed off label.

This means that it is being used for a condition it was not previously meant to treat.

This treatment has only been prescribed by the consultant after careful consideration of other treatment options.

It is important to be aware that finasteride is classified as category X in pregnancy. This means that finasteride is not suitable for women who are likely to become pregnant, as it can change the levels of the male hormones which may affect a male baby's development.

Recommended dose of finasteride?

The recommend dose of finasteride is 2.5mg, sometimes even a 5mg tablet is required in order to get the desired effect.

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Department

Dermatology

Review due

March 2022

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Side effects of finasteride

- Mood changes (anxiety and depression) in 1 in 150 patients
- Difficulty concentrating (this is rare)
- Enlargement of breast tissue and sometimes breast tenderness (this is rare)

If you develop any side effects please contact Dr Takwale's secretary. The contact details are at the end of this leaflet.

Important points to remember

- This medication has been prescribed after careful consideration of other treatment options
- This medication is not suitable for women of child bearing age due to the risk of causing development issues to a male baby
- You **must not** donate blood while taking finasteride. If a pregnant woman needed a blood transfusion the presence of finasteride in the donated blood could impact the baby's development

Contact information

Dr Takwale's Secretary

Tel: 0300 422 5396

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm

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