

Editor's note: This English translation was done by a third party. The original document can be accessed [here](#).

**Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
National Center for Expertise of Medicines and Medical Devices**

Adverse Drug Reactions

**Changes have been made to the patient instructions for finasteride
March 2012**

Having received new data on the side effects of finasteride, the FDA announced the need to expand that list. The drug is used to treat patients with prostatic hyperplasia, and is also prescribed for androgenetic alopecia. Finasteride is the active ingredient in Proscar and Propecia, and is manufactured by Merck, as well as a number of generic manufacturers.

The FDA has received information that after discontinuation of finasteride therapy, some patients have sexual side effects such as decreased libido, impaired ejaculation, decreased ejaculate, and impotence (in very rare cases). Other side effects disappear after discontinuation of the drug.

According to a ruling by the FDA, the manufacturer included information on the decrease in libido and the possible development of male infertility while taking the drug. After stopping therapy, the latter side effect disappears.

Proscar was approved in 1992 for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia. It helps to reduce its size, reduces the risk of acute urinary retention, and maximizes the rate of its outflow. Propecia has been prescribed since 1997 for the treatment of androgenetic alopecia.

Source of this information <http://clinical-pharmacy.ru>