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**Swedish Medical Products Agency
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Does Propecia impair sexual function after treatment?

It has been known for some time that sexual dysfunction can occur during treatment with Propecia, which is used to treat male pattern baldness. The MPA is now following up on reports on the Internet of continued reduced function even after treatment has ended.

Propecia, which contains finasteride, was approved in 1998 for the treatment of male pattern baldness. The active substance finasteride is also present in Proscar, which is intended for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia. The dose of finasteride is five times higher for Proscar than for Propecia. Both drugs are marketed by MSD. Other approved products containing finasteride 1 mg are Propecia Orifarm and Finasteride Medis.

Prior to the approval of Propecia, erectile dysfunction, ejaculation disorders including decreased seminal fluid and decreased sex drive were considered to be less common adverse reactions, occurring in 1/100 - 1/1000 of those treated in clinical trials. Information on the description of these side effects can be found in the summary of product characteristics and in the package leaflet.

Prior to the approval of Propecia, there were no data, either from animal studies or from clinical trials in men with hair loss, to suggest any persistent problems. Neither in the periodic safety data monitoring carried out by the MPA, based on reports received by MSD, or directly by the MPA, has any signal been identified that symptoms of impaired sexual function would persist after cessation of treatment.

After receiving information via the Internet about patients suffering from persistent sexual function impairment after discontinuation of Propecia, the MPA has requested a compilation from MSD of all adverse reaction reports concerning the impact on sexual function in men, including information on whether the symptoms in the individual cases have receded after discontinuation of Propecia treatment.

As before, the efficacy and duration of treatment should be continuously evaluated by the treating physician.