

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

## **Finasteride 1 mg and hair loss**

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### **Preamble**

Alopecia is the medical term for hair loss, also known as baldness. When it is characterized by a progressive loss of hair beginning at the top of the skull and/or the temples (aka temporal gulfs), it is known as androgenetic alopecia. This condition is linked to a combination of genetic factors and the action of a specific hormone, dihydrotestosterone (DHT).

Androgenetic alopecia is common in men, representing a natural evolution of the hair. It is not a disease.

When this form of alopecia results in a significant concern to the patient, medical support can be considered, namely in the form of prescription medication. Among the treatments available, finasteride 1 mg may be an option. Drugs that contain finasteride 1mg are Propecia and its generics.

But use of finasteride 1 mg requires certain precautions to be taken, given the nature of certain adverse reactions this drug can have in patients. Information on the use of finasteride 1 mg is detailed in this dossier.

### **What is Finasteride 1 mg?**

Finasteride 1 mg (Propecia and generics) is a drug indicated for the treatment of mild stages of androgenetic alopecia only, in men ages 18 to 41. It is contraindicated in women.

Drugs containing finasteride at a dose of 1 mg (Propecia and generics) help stabilize the process of alopecia.

Only men in the early stages of alopecia, without complete baldness, can expect improvement with this treatment.

The recommended dose is one 1 mg tablet once a day. There is no point in increasing the dose in the hope of faster or greater effectiveness. Similarly, it is useless to reduce the dose to avoid the appearance of undesirable effects or to reduce their intensity.

Propecia and its generics can be prescribed by all doctors.

The action of finasteride is hormonal; it is an anti-androgen substance that reduces the formation of a hormone produced naturally by the body from testosterone: dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT promotes hairiness on the body but, conversely, it can lead to the appearance of baldness because this hormone contributes to reducing hair regrowth and reducing its volume.

By preventing the formation of DHT in the body, finasteride can stabilize hair loss.

In humans, DHT is involved in the development of secondary sexual characteristics (body hair, muscle mass, etc.), as well as in reproductive functions. Therefore, although the desired action of finasteride is the reduction of the level of DHT in the hair follicles, other organs can be impacted.

If drugs based on finasteride 1 mg manage, in certain cases, to combat androgenetic alopecia, the hormonal action of finasteride could be the cause of sometimes severe adverse effects, in particular of a psychological, sexual and/or physical nature.

It is important to be aware of these adverse reactions before starting treatment, and to be able to recognize them as soon as they appear.

Contained in this file

[Risks of taking finasteride 1 mg](#)

[Information for patients treated with finasteride 1 mg](#)

[Information for healthcare professionals about finasteride 1 mg](#)