

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

Information for patients treated with finasteride 1 mg

Published July 7, 2022

During your first consultation about hair loss, it is important to talk to your doctor about your complete medical history (including physical and mental illnesses, in particular anxiety disorders, depression, etc.), any treatments you are taking, and your current state of health, especially your psychological health. This discussion time should also allow you to ask any questions you deem useful.

Indeed, reporting any psychological difficulties is important because:

- on one hand, hair loss can have an origin other than androgenetic, in particular in a young person. This baldness can, for example, be linked to psychological stress (school exams, family or professional worries, etc.), deficiencies (iron, vitamins, etc.), certain illnesses, or the taking of certain medications. In these situations, finasteride 1 mg would be useless and potentially expose you to adverse effects, with no effect on your hair loss;
- on the other hand, finasteride 1 mg can cause undesirable effects, in particular psychological ones (anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts likely to lead to suicide) and therefore aggravate existing problems.

In addition, if you are planning to have a child in the coming months, remember to inform your doctor about the possible impact of finasteride on fertility.

Before starting treatment, we recommend that you discuss with your doctor:

- the benefits you might expect from treatment with finasteride 1 mg, and the potential risks of taking this medicine;
- precautions to follow;
- what to do in the event of the appearance of adverse reactions.

Your doctor may suggest that you have a scalp examination (trichogramma).

Note that due to the lack of data concerning the combination of finasteride and topical minoxidil, this combination is not recommended in the treatment of androgenetic alopecia.

What to know and what to do

It is important to remain vigilant for the appearance of worrying/unusual signs, even if they seem trivial to you or you are embarrassed to talk about them. Do not hesitate to discuss any such signs with your doctor at each follow-up consultation of your treatment. He will be able to provide you with valuable advice, or refer you to a specialist if he deems it useful.

It is also recommended that you inform your relatives that you are taking finasteride, inform them of possible adverse reactions, and to ask them to alert you if they observe any changes in your behavior.

In the event of a change in your mood (feelings of sadness, anxiety, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, etc.), stop the treatment yourself and consult your doctor.

In the event of the appearance of sexual problems or any other undesirable side effect, report it to your doctor as soon as possible. In such cases, you can discuss with him again whether he advises you to continue treatment or stopping it. There is no risk in stopping treatment on your own initiative.

If you experience swelling of the lips, face, tongue or throat; or difficulty swallowing or breathing, you should stop taking the medicine and contact emergency services immediately, as this may be a serious allergic reaction.

Essential information on the risk of occurrence of certain adverse reactions associated with the use of finasteride, such as psychological and/or sexual function disorders, as well as the action to be taken in the event of the appearance of these adverse reactions, have been compiled in a document for the attention of men treated with finasteride for hair loss, or for whom a prescription is being considered.

[Download the information document for patients developed in 2019](#) (06/07/2022)

If a health professional (doctor or pharmacist) has not already done so, it is important to report adverse reactions, because in doing so you contribute to a deeper knowledge of the drugs that caused them. But if you have never filed a pharmacovigilance report about adverse reactions to a drug, you can consult our video on reporting adverse reactions to finasteride 1 mg in particular, which was designed by the Regional Pharmacovigilance Center of Limoges, in partnership with the Association for Aid to Victims of Finasteride and ANSM.

Educational and detailed, this video guides patients and their families through filing a pharmacovigilance report.

Watch the video [now](#) (by clicking on certain areas on pages 11, 15 and 16, additional information appears.)

Please keep in mind

If you see doctors other than the one who prescribed finasteride for you, remember to let them know that you are taking this medication. Indeed, if, for example, you seek treatment for psychological problems, it is important that the doctor knows you are taking this medication insofar as it could be the cause of your disorders.

Due to a risk of malformed genitalia in boys, women who are pregnant or may be pregnant should never handle broken or crushed finasteride tablets.

You must take care not to leave your medicine within the reach of other people.

In view of the possible delayed onset of certain adverse effects, it is recommended that you remain attentive to your general condition, even after stopping treatment. Do not hesitate to consult your doctor in the event of the appearance of undesirable effects.

Several communications have been published since 2012 to alert to the risks of adverse reactions associated with the use of finasteride 1 mg, and the action to be taken, both for patients and health care professionals.