

**SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF ORAL
FINASTERIDE IN ANDROGENIC ALOPECIA:
A REVIEW**

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ABSTRACT

Topic: Safety and Efficacy of Oral Finasteride in Androgenic Alopecia: A Review

Androgenic alopecia affects at least 50% of men by the age of 50 years and could reach up to 70% of all males as age advances. When facing with hair loss problem, the ideal treatment options would be a non-invasive form of treatment with minimal or no adverse effect to the patients. There are positive reports that indicate oral finasteride can bring about improvement to male androgenic alopecia. However, there are also some adverse effects reported with this treatment. It is important to find out if this treatment is efficient and safe for the treatment of androgenic alopecia. This is a structured review of the available articles on oral finasteride in the treatment of androgenic alopecia. An electronic search of English peer-reviewed literatures was performed through PubMed to obtain all the articles using the search term: Oral finasteride, androgenic alopecia and male pattern hair loss. Randomized controlled clinical trials, clinical trials, meta-analysis, reviews and systemic reviews published in peer-reviewed journals or presented at scientific meetings (abstracts) were considered. A total of 5 studies were indentified for inclusion in the review. The search on Pubmed provided a total of 50 citations. There were no duplicates. Of these, 45 studies were discarded because after reviewing the abstracts, it appeared that these papers clearly did not meet the criteria. The full texts of all five studies were retrieved. There were 4 randomized placebo controlled trials and 1 prospective cohort study published in English. The trials involved 2267 patients which included 9 pair of identical twins. The main inclusion criteria entailed patients with androgenic alopecia who received only oral finasteride as treatment. The intervention received was oral finasteride for the treatment of androgenic alopecia. In all study, the primary outcome was improvement in hair count. Secondary outcome of sexual adverse effect was reported to be minimal as per previous trials. The included trials have shown that oral finasteride brought about a significant and sustainable improvement in hair count. The administration of this medication is also regarded as tolerable and safe. The incidence of encountered adverse effects, notably sexual dysfunction was the same as previous trials. These effects were transient and reversible when the medication is stopped.