

PROPECIA®

Fact sheet

- PROPECIA® (finasteride 1 mg) is the most recent medical development in the treatment of mild to moderate male pattern hair loss, medically known as androgenetic alopecia, and is the only medication available as a prescription tablet. PROPECIA® is administered once daily.
- PROPECIA® works by blocking the action of Type II 5-alpha-reductase, an enzyme required for the production of dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT is a hormone that shortens the hair growth cycle on the scalp causing hair follicles to shrink and eventually fall out. PROPECIA® has a very specific mechanism of action and only affects hair follicles on the head.
- PROPECIA® can be prescribed for men only; it is contraindicated for use in children and women.
- PROPECIA® generally produces noticeable results after only three months of treatment.
- If patients cease treatment, hair loss will return to previous levels.
- PROPECIA® does not affect a man's standard level of testosterone.
- Research into the use of PROPECIA® as a potential treatment for male hair loss began in 1992. PROPECIA® was approved for use in Canada in June 1998.

- PROPECIA® is well tolerated in men; however, like all medicines, it may demonstrate side effects in some patients. A small number of men (less than two per cent) participating in clinical trials experienced a decrease in sexual desire and/or difficulty in achieving an erection. An even smaller number experienced a decrease in the amount of semen released during sex. In clinical studies, the tolerability profile was comparable to placebo. Side effects disappeared in men who stopped taking PROPECIA® as well as in most men who continued treatment. Moreover, the incidence of reported adverse events in men taking PROPECIA® decreased over time.

Clinical trial results

- The efficacy of PROPECIA® in men with male pattern hair loss was demonstrated in double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled studies including 1,879 men between 18 and 41 years of age with mild to moderate hair loss due to androgenic alopecia.
- Four outcome measures of hair growth were used to assess efficacy:
 1. Hair count
 2. Global photographic assessment
 3. Investigator assessment
 4. Patient self assessment.
- At 12 months, PROPECIA® stopped hair loss in 86 per cent of men and increased hair growth in 65 per cent of men.
- At five years (60 months), 90 per cent of patients treated with PROPECIA® stopped losing their hair and 65 per cent experienced new hair growth.

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Marlene Gauthier

Manager, Public Affairs
Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.
(514) 428-3057

Mélanie Hould / Roch Landriault

NATIONAL *PharmaCom*
(514) 843-2373 / 843-2345