

QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

ASSESSMENT OF SIDE EFFECTS OF ORAL FINASTERIDE IN PATIENTS WITH ANDROGENIC ALOPECIA

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Background: Androgenic alopecia (AGA) is patterned balding of the scalp and recession of the temporal hairline commonly affecting men and women caused due to 5 α -dihydrotestosterone (5 α -DHT)-dependent miniaturization of hair follicles. The United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved the use of oral finasteride 1mg /day for androgenic alopecia (AGA) and forms the first line of treatment. Post marketing survey of the drug has shown to have adverse effects on the sexual functions and other side effects in patients.

Objective: To Assess oral finasteride-associated side effects in patients with Androgenic Alopecia by questionnaire method after a minimum treatment of 3 months.

Materials and Methods : A total of 100 patients with AGA were assessed between January 2018 to September 2018 treated with oral finasteride 1mg per day for a minimum of 3 months .They were given a questionnaire to answer about the type of sexual side effects encountered like time of onset of symptoms, erectile dysfunction, ejaculatory dysfunction ,loss of libido, decreased ejaculatory volume ,continued difficulty post stoppage of medication and other side-effects like depression , breast tenderness and weight gain .

Results : Two patients (2%) had erectile dysfunction after 5 months of medication , one patient (1 %)had decreased ejaculatory volume and mild breast engorgement after 6 months of treatment and one patient (1%)had weight gain after 6 months.

Conclusions: Although uncommon, the use of oral finasteride is associated with serious sexual and reproductive side effects, such as erectile dysfunction, decreased ejaculate volume, breast tenderness and weight gain.