PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Minoxidil (Topical)

Brand Names: US
Hair Regrowth Treatment Men [OTC]; Minoxidil for Men [OTC]; Rogaine Mens Extra Strength [OTC]; Rogaine Mens [OTC]; Rogaine Womens [OTC]

Brand Names: Canada
Apo-Gain; Hair Regrowth Formula; Minox; Rogaine

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat hair loss.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you have an allergy to minoxidil or any other part of this drug.

- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.

- If you do not have a family member who has had hair loss.

- If your hair loss is sudden or patchy, or if you do not know
why you have hair loss.

- If you are a woman. This drug is not approved for use in women. If you are a woman using this drug, talk with your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

- Do not put on red, swollen, infected, irritated, or painful skin.

- Do not use other scalp drugs or hair care products while using this drug.

- It may take several months to see full effect.

- This drug may not work for all people who use it. Talk with the doctor.
• Call your doctor if you have unwanted facial hair growth.
• This drug may catch on fire. Do not use near an open flame or while smoking.
• This drug may cause harm if swallowed. If this drug is swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
• This drug is not approved for use in children younger than 18 years of age. Talk with the doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

• Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
• Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.
• Dizziness or passing out.
• A big weight gain.
• Swelling in the arms or legs.
• Scalp irritation.
What are some other side effects of this drug?
All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Change in color of hair.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?
Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Do not take this drug by mouth. Use on your scalp and hair only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, ears, and eyes (may burn).
- If this drug gets in the eyes, rinse with cool water.
- Follow how to use as you have been told by the doctor or read the package insert.
- Wash your hands before and after use.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Put on a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed
dose and go back to your normal time.

- Do not put on 2 doses or extra doses.

**How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

**All products:**

- Store at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

**Foam:**

- Protect from heat and sunlight. Do not puncture or burn even if it seems empty.

**General drug facts**

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.

Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

**Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer**

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

**Last Reviewed Date**

2017-03-17
If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team. After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.