

Minoxidil Capsule

Active Ingredient

Minoxidil

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet contains some information about your medication. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medication against the positive benefits they expect it will have for you. **If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, please contact us again or speak with your doctor or pharmacist for more information.** Keep this leaflet with the medicine as you may need to read it again in the future.

What it is used for

This medication contains the active ingredient Minoxidil. Minoxidil belongs to a group of medications called antihypertensives. It was originally used to treat high blood pressure in patients.

However, after discovering it increased body hair growth, Minoxidil is now also used in lower doses to treat hair loss. It can be used orally or topically.

Only take this medication for the condition your doctor has prescribed it.

Before you take Minoxidil

When you must NOT take it:

- If you are allergic to the active ingredient
- If the medication is expired or has not been stored correctly
- If you are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant.

Let us know if you are:

- Pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Suffer from any other medical conditions or take any other medications

How to take Minoxidil

How much to take

Please take this medication as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Refer to the directions on the product label if required.

How to take it

Oral Minoxidil

Swallow the capsule whole with a glass of water, with or without food. It generally takes around 1-2 months before seeing any effect.

Topical minoxidil

Apply to dry area where hair regrowth is required. To avoid transfer to other parts of your body, wash hands well after application and allow the product to dry before going to bed.

Do not wear a wig, scarf or hat for at least 1 hour after application as this may increase the amount absorbed through the skin causing unwanted effects.

Wait at least 4 hours after application before washing your hair. It may take 3–4 months of treatment before you see a benefit. If you respond, you will have to keep using minoxidil otherwise you will lose the hair that has grown back.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose as normal. **Do not take two doses to make up for a dose you missed.**

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately contact your doctor, the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) or go to the Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital.

Side effects

Please let us or your doctor know as soon as possible if you do not feel well while taking this medication.

The following side effects are reported with oral minoxidil:

- Fluid retention (causing weight gain and/or ankle swelling)
- Increased heart rate
- Low blood pressure (may cause dizziness)

The following side effects are reported with topical minoxidil:

- Itch, dry skin, mild dermatitis

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You may notice some increased hair shedding at the start of treatment, but this is very common and usually settles within 6 weeks.

Storage

Expires 6 months after preparation. Store your minoxidil **capsules** unrefrigerated in a cool, dry place that is below 25°C. Store minoxidil **solution** refrigerated, between 2°C-8°C.



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