

MEDICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HAIR LOSS

A large number of drugs may interfere with the hair cycle and produce hair loss. Some of the more common drugs include:

- **Amphetamines** (stimulants that may be used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) such as Adderall, Ritalin and Copncerta.
- **Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors** (a type of medication that doctors prescribe to treat high blood pressure, hypertension and other cardiovascular conditions.
- **Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers** including paroxetine (Paxil), fluoxetine (Prozac), and sertraline (Zoloft) (medications that are often prescribed to relieve symptoms of depression, anxiety disorders, seasonal affective disorder, dysthymia or mild chronic depression and other similar conditions. They aim to correct imbalances of neurotransmitters in the brain that are believed to be responsible for changes in mood or behavior. They are known for many side-effects in addition to hair loss.
- **Antifungal medications**
- **Antiseizure / Anticonvulsant medications** (such as Topiramate, Trokendi XR, Depakene, Trileptal and etc).
- **Appetite Suppressant, Phentermine** – binds to receptors on the hypothalamus and is one of a pair of drugs known as fen-phen and prescribed for obesity. Though the exact mechanism remains to be unknown, alopecia is being linked to stress and the excessive reaction of the sympathetic nervous system.
- **Beta-blockers**, which doctors use to treat heart problems and glaucoma (they are medicines that work by temporarily stopping or reducing the body's natural 'fight-or-flight' responses.
- **Bipolar medications** - Some bipolar medications can lead to hair loss. Lithium induced hypothyroidism and can cause dry to thinning hair and hair loss in a small percent of

people (Lithium, Eskalith, Eskalith CR, Lithobid). Note many people report more hair breakage due to hair becoming dry and brittle.

- **Birth control pills** – oral contraceptives are a hormonal method of preventing pregnancy. Side-effects vary from person to person. Different types of birth control pills cause different side-effects.
- **Blood thinners**, including heparin (the brand name depends on the form) and warfarin (Coumadin)
- **Cholesterol lowering drugs**, such as clofibrate (Atromid-S) and gemfibrozil (Lopid)
- **Drugs for the treatment of thyroid problems**
- **Famotidine** (Pepcid) and other medications that treat stomach problems
- **Hormone replacement therapy (HRT)** – also known as menopausal hormone therapy HRT is often prescribed to reduce symptoms of menopause. Some types of HRT contain both progesterone and estrogen, while others contain only estrogen. Sometimes they contain testosterone.
- **Isotretinoin (Accutane)** and other vitamin A-based medications
- **Levodopa (Atamet)** and other medications for Parkinson's disease
- **Naproxen (Naprosyn)** and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) – a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug and is available at higher strengths by prescription and lower strengths over the counter such as Aleve. It is used for reducing pain and inflammation.
- **Steroids** - powerful drugs used to treat a variety of medical conditions. Not all steroids carry this as a possible side effect, but many do. Many hair loss physicians and experts believe that androgenic alopecia (male pattern baldness) is generally caused by DHT (dihydrotestosterone), as well as other hormonal factors. Unfortunately, many steroids are DHT based. The higher the androgenic rating, the more probable the possibility of accelerated genetic pattern hair loss occurring. The most commonly used steroids that have the highest probability of causing hair loss:

- Winstrol (Stanozolol)
- Masteron
- Anavar (Oxandrolone)
- Primobolan (Methenolone)
- Anadrol (Oxymetholone)
- Trenbolone
- Dianabol (Methandrostenolone)
- Proviron (Mesterolone)

Less likely but still possible hair loss steroids:

- Testosterone
- Turinabol
- Deca Durabolin (Nandrolone Decanoate)
- Nandrolone Phenylpropionate (NPP)
- Boldenone (Equipoise)