

ANDROGENETIC ALOPECIA

People experience hair loss differently. To those who see themselves losing a good bit of hair, there may be a loss of self confidence, a loss of self esteem, and a feeling that the problem is one over which they have no control. Many people who are undergoing this type of stress do not ask a physician for help. In fact, many have never talked to a doctor about it. People who are seen to have less than normal hair are judged to be less assertive, less successful, less likable, and to be older than their counterparts who have no visible hair loss.

Balding has a significant effect on certain people. You have to lose more than half of your hair before anyone will see you as thinner. You must understand that going in the other direction, even if you increase your hair by 50%, you may not notice it. Nevertheless, patients who have used medical treatment for hair loss and have had some success, are more optimistic and more hopeful than impartial observers who evaluated them. In other words, their self-image improves.

Rogaine is the first thing that has ever been discovered that has any affect on hair growth at all. In general, you have about a one in three chance of growing hair that we can see. You have an equal chance of growing fuzz or something like that, and an equal chance of growing nothing. In all work to date, you have about a 90% chance of staying approximately where you are once you begin using Rogaine.

Do not have unrealistic expectations about the affect of Rogaine topical solution. It is not going to “cure” baldness, because there is no disease to cure. The balding process is both natural in the sense that it affects mainly people who are normal otherwise and who have normal hormones as far as we can now measure, but since it does not affect everyone equally, there are familial, hereditary and other factors involved.

Rogaine is best used in younger patients who have a shorter duration of baldness and who have considerable hair remaining. It usually requires at least four months to see any response and at least one year to evaluate success for each individual patient. You must be prepared to continue therapy for a long period before seeing results. The single most important factor for successful long-term hair growth with Rogaine is a long-term commitment to the treatment regimen. One milliliter must be applied to the entire scalp twice-a-day. In my opinion, the easiest way to apply it is with a medicine dropper, and you should ask your pharmacist to give you one that will fit the bottle. Use the child-proof cap to protect the bottle between applications.

Please read the package insert that comes with the Rogaine bottle. I would like to take photographs before you start Rogaine, take follow-up photos at four-month intervals, and see you three times a year during the first two years of treatment.