

## **ROGAINE PATIENT INFORMATION**

Rogaine is a clear liquid medicine which is applied to the scalp twice per day. It is often beneficial in the treatment of hair loss.

Rogaine is the trade name for a liquid medicine which is made from a pill called Minoxidil. Minoxidil is an oral medication used to treat high blood pressure. Some of the patients who took Minoxidil for high blood pressure developed a side effect of increased hair growth. The company which made the Minoxidil pill thought that this may be a potential new treatment for hair loss. They took the tablets, ground them up and made a liquid out of them. This liquid is called Rogaine. Rogaine has been used in many different studies, both in men and women, for the treatment of hair loss.

It is difficult to be certain what you can expect with Rogaine. Some patients notice an increase in hair growth to cover previously bald areas. Most patients notice that the Rogaine seems to slow down or stop their hair from falling out any further. For many patients, this is all that they would ask. The question that cannot be answered right now is 'will Rogaine stop you from going bald completely, or will it just take a slight longer time for you to go bald?' There have been no studies done to answer this question. It is an important question because if you are going to go bald anyway only a year or two later, it probably is not worth your time and money to use this product. If it would prevent you from going bald it is definitely worth it

Rogaine is a very simple product to use. It is a clear liquid. It is rubbed into the scalp twice per day. It should be used after shampooing rather than before. Outside of a minor irritation in the skin, there are no significant side effects with its use. Not enough gets into the system to have any side effects on blood pressure.

I used to joke around with patients that the only side effect of Rogaine is in the wallet because of the cost. Fortunately this is no longer the case as the price has dropped significantly. There are actually three forms of Rogaine. There is the generic liquid, the brand name liquid, and the brand name foam. Most patients find the foam the easiest product to use and the least messy; however, it is also more expensive. I have personally seen the generic foam available at BJ's for less than thirty dollars for a four-month supply. The price of the brand name liquid and the brand name foam have also dropped significantly. It does pay to shop around to see which is the best option for your individual situation.

Rogaine may be of benefit for many patients with hair loss. It often works the best if it is combined with the oral Propecia pill if you are a man. If you have any other questions regarding the use of Rogaine, please ask me before you leave the office.