

Medication	Side Effect	Management
All medications	Allergic reaction (rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You could be allergic to the medication. Inform your doctor immediately.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are there any Special Precautions that I Need to Take?

- Inform your doctor if you feel dizzy upon changes in posture, loss of consciousness while urinating, or if you have liver or kidney problems.
- Finasteride and Dutasteride are secreted in semen and use of a condom is recommended, if your sexual partner is pregnant or likely to become pregnant.
- Female caregivers who are pregnant or may become pregnant should avoid handling Dutasteride capsule or crushed/broken Finasteride tablet.

How do I Store These Medications?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Medications to Treat Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)



What is Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)?

- BPH is an enlarged prostate gland, which causes uncomfortable urinary symptoms.
- These symptoms include a slowdown in the urine stream, build-up of urine in the bladder, as well as a frequent and urgent need to urinate.
- BPH commonly affects males over 50 years old.

What are the Medications Used to Treat BPH?

Medication Class	Medication Name
Alpha-blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfuzosin • Tamsulosin • Prazosin • Terazosin
5 α -reductase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finasteride • Dutasteride

How do the Medications Work?

- The Alpha-blockers relax smooth muscles in the urinary tract and prostate, while 5 α -reductase inhibitors treat the enlarged prostate.
- Both types of medications are able to improve symptoms and urine flow rates.

How are the Medications Administered / Taken?

- Prazosin, Tamsulosin, Terazosin, Finasteride and Dutasteride can be taken before or after food except Alfuzosin which has to be taken after food.
- Alfuzosin, Dutasteride and Tamsulosin should be swallowed whole.
- Finasteride and Dustasteride do not work immediately. It may take several months before you notice any benefit. It is therefore important that you take your medication regularly, or you may not receive any benefit at all.

What Should I do if I Miss a Dose?

- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Never take a double dosage to make up for the missed dose.

Can the Medications be Administered / Taken with Other Medications?

- It is important that you inform the doctor, pharmacist about other medications (especially medicines for high blood pressure) – including over-the-counter medicines, supplements and traditional/herbal remedies – that you are currently taking, as they may affect the way you benefit from the medications that treat BPH.

What are the Important Side Effects?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Medication	Side Effect	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfuzosin • Prazosin • Tamsulosin • Terazosin 	Headache, dizziness, weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves as you get used to the medicine or with dose reduction.
	Dizziness or fainting when getting up from a lying or sitting position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the first dose before bedtime. • Avoid abrupt changes in posture, get up slowly upon waking.
	Drowsiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive or operate machinery • Avoid alcohol as it may cause increased drowsiness.
	Rapid heartbeat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your doctor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finasteride • Dutasteride 	Stomach discomfort (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take medicine after food.
	Decreased libido	Consult your doctor.