



[Home](#)

2. Avodart

# Avodart

**Generic name:** [dutasteride](#) [ *doo-TAS-ter-ide* ]

**Drug class:** [5-alpha-reductase inhibitors](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Nov 5, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

## What is Avodart?

Avodart is used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) in men with an enlarged prostate. It helps improve symptoms such as urinary flow and may also reduce your need for prostate surgery later on.

Avodart prevents the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) in the body. DHT is involved in the development of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

Avodart is sometimes given with another medication called tamsulosin (Flomax). Be sure to read the medication guide or patient instructions provided with each of your medications.

Avodart may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Warnings

Avodart can be absorbed through the skin, and women or children should avoid handling the capsules. This medication can cause birth defects if a woman is exposed to it during pregnancy; just handling the medicine may cause abnormalities in male fetuses. Avodart capsules are not typically prescribed for women, although it may be used off-label (not an FDA-approved use) for female pattern hair loss in postmenopausal women.

Do not chew, crush, or open Avodart capsules. Swallow the capsule whole. Dutasteride can irritate your lips, mouth, or throat if the capsule has been broken or opened before you swallow it. If a woman of childbearing potential accidentally comes into contact with this medication from a leaking capsule, wash the area with soap and water right away.

Before taking Avodart, tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to dutasteride, or to a similar medicine called finasteride (Propecia, Proscar). Using Avodart may increase your risk of developing prostate cancer. Your doctor will perform tests to make sure you do not have other conditions that would prevent you from safely using Avodart.

Do not donate blood while taking Avodart and for at least 6 months after your treatment ends. Avodart can be carried in the blood and could cause birth defects if a pregnant woman receives a transfusion with blood that contains dutasteride.

## Before taking this medicine

Using Avodart may increase your risk of developing prostate cancer. Your doctor will perform tests to make sure you do not have other conditions that would prevent you from safely using Avodart.

Before taking Avodart, tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to this medication, or to a similar medicine called finasteride (Propecia, Proscar).

Avodart can be absorbed through the skin, and women or children should avoid handling the capsules. This medication can cause birth defects if a woman is exposed to it during pregnancy; just handling the medicine may cause abnormalities in male fetuses. Avodart is not typically prescribed for women, although it may be used off-label (not an FDA-approved use) for female pattern hair loss in postmenopausal women.

 [Avodart pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Avodart?

Take Avodart exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Take the capsule with a full glass of water.

Avodart can be taken with or without food.

Do not chew, crush, or open an Avodart capsule. Swallow the capsule whole. Dutasteride can irritate your lips, mouth, or throat if the capsule has been broken or opened before you swallow it. It may take up to 6 months of using this medicine before your symptoms improve. For best results, keep using the medication as directed. Do not stop taking Avodart without talking to your doctor.

To be sure this medication is helping your condition and not causing harmful effects, your blood may need to be tested often. Your doctor will also test your prostate-specific antigen (PSA) to check for prostate cancer. Visit your doctor regularly.

Store Avodart at room temperature away from moisture and heat. The capsules may become soft and leaky, or they may stick together if they get too hot. Do not use any capsule that is cracked or leaking. Call your pharmacist for instructions on how to safely dispose of a leaking Avodart capsule.

 [Detailed Avodart dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid?

Do not donate blood while taking Avodart and for at least 6 months after your treatment ends. Avodart can be carried in

the blood and could cause birth defects if a pregnant woman receives a transfusion with blood that contains Avodart.

## Avodart side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to Avodart: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Less serious side effects may include:

- decreased libido (sex drive);
- decreased amount of semen released during sex;
- impotence (trouble getting or keeping an erection); or
- breast tenderness or enlargement.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Avodart side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Flomax

Flomax (tamsulosin) is used to improve urination in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia. Includes ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[297 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Cialis

Cialis (tadalafil) increase increases blood flow to a certain area of the body and is used to treat ...

#### Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[554 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### OmvoH

OmvoH is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's

disease in adults. This ...

### Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Proscar

Proscar (finasteride) is used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate). Includes ...

### Reviews & ratings

[4 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Terazosin

Terazosin is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) and benign prostatic hyperplasia ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.7 / 10

[54 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Doxazosin

Doxazosin is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) and benign prostatic hyperplasia ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[68 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Finasteride

Finasteride is used for hair loss in men (androgenetic alopecia) and benign prostatic hyperplasia ...

### Reviews & ratings

4.8 / 10

[301 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Tadalafil

Tadalafil increases blood flow to particular areas of the body and is used to treat erectile ...

### Reviews & ratings

8.4 / 10

[777 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## What other drugs will affect Avodart?

Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use, especially:

- conivaptan (Vaprisol);
- imatinib (Gleevec);
- isoniazid (for treating tuberculosis);
- an antibiotic such as clarithromycin (Biaxin), erythromycin (E.E.S., EryPed, Ery-Tab, Erythrocin, Pediazole), or telithromycin (Ketek);
- an antifungal medication such as itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral), miconazole (Oravig), or voriconazole (Vfend);
- an antidepressant such as nefazodone;
- heart or blood pressure medication such as nifedipine (Cardene) or quinidine (Quin-G); or
- HIV/AIDS medicine such as atazanavir (Reyataz), delavirdine (Rescriptor), indinavir (Crixivan), nelfinavir (Viracept), saquinavir (Invirase), or ritonavir (Norvir, Kaletra).

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with Avodart. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

 [Avodart drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Avodart interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Avodart

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## References

1. [Avodart Prescribing Information](#)

## More about Avodart (dutasteride)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(40\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors](#)
- [En español](#)

## Professional resources

- [Avodart prescribing information](#)
- [Dutasteride \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

### [Medical Disclaimer](#)


Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 9.01.

## DRUG STATUS

### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only

### Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

### CSA Schedule\*

**N/A** Not a controlled drug



### Approval History

**10+ years** FDA approved 2001



## User Reviews & Ratings

6.9 / 10

[40 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Avodart 0.5 mg \(GX CE2\)](#)

# Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



### About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

### Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

### Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.