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2. Rogaine

# Rogaine

**Generic name:** [Minoxidil](#)

**Brand names:** Men's Rogaine Solution (5%), Men's Rogaine Foam (5%), Women's Rogaine Solution (2%), Women's Rogaine Foam (5%)

**Drug class:** [Miscellaneous topical agents](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 20, 2024.

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## What is Rogaine?

Rogaine is used for [hair loss](#) to help regrow new thicker hair and prevent future hair loss in men and women. Hair growth may be seen as early as 2 to 4 months, when used regularly. Rogaine for women and Rogaine for Men are applied daily or twice daily depending on the product and person using it. They are available over the counter without a prescription.

**Rogaine for Women** is used to help regrow hair if you have gradually thinning hair or gradual hair loss on the top of the head, which may only become noticeable after years of gradual loss. It works best when it is used at the earlier stages of female pattern hair loss. Women's Rogaine foam is applied once daily to the affected scalp area, and the solution is applied twice daily.

**Rogaine for Men** is used to improve hair growth if you have inherited gradually thinning hair or gradual hair loss on the vertex at the top of the scalp. It is not intended for frontal baldness or a receding hairline. This medicine works best at the earlier stages of hair loss or thinning and is less effective when there is a larger area of hair loss. Rogaine for men is available as a foam and solution and is applied twice daily to the affected scalp area.

Rogaine will not cause permanent regrowth of scalp hair. You must continue using the product to keep the regrowth of your hair.

## What is Rogaine used for?

### Rogaine for women

Women's Rogaine is FDA-approved to treat women 18 years and older with female-pattern hair loss, with gradual thinning hair or gradual hair loss on the top of the head, and a family history of this kind of hair loss.

### Rogaine for men

Men's Rogaine is FDA-approved for treating hereditary hair loss in men 18 years and older to help reverse the progression of hair loss on the scalp. Hereditary hair loss is when men experience gradually thinning hair or gradual hair loss on the top of the scalp in the vertex area, which has affected other men in their family. It is not intended for frontal baldness or a receding hairline.

## Rogaine for beards and other hair loss issues

Rogaine for beards, eyebrows, and also for alopecia areata (AA), scarring alopecia, and hair shaft disorders has been used to improve hair growth; however, these uses are all off-label.

## How long does it take for Rogaine to work?

Rogaine starts working in the first 2 to 4 months, with new soft, colorless hairs growing. From 4 to 6 months, new, thicker hair growth may become visible. To maintain hair regrowth, it is important to continue using minoxidil regularly. In the first 1 to 3 weeks of using minoxidil, you may have increased hair shedding.

## How does Rogaine work?

Rogaine works by increasing the hair follicle's length of time in its growth (anagen) phase, which helps increase hair length and thickness. It also shortens the length of time in the shedding (telogen) phase, which means the follicles move more quickly into the growth phase.

Although the mechanism of action of this medicine for hair loss is not fully understood, it is thought to work by activating both extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) and Akt and by preventing cell death by increasing the ratio of a protein called BCL-2/Bax.

## Rogaine side effects

### Common Rogaine side effects

Common Rogaine side effects may include changes in the color or texture of your hair.

### Serious side effects

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

Although the risk of serious side effects is low when the foam and solution is applied to the skin, side effects can occur if the medicine is absorbed into your bloodstream.

This medicine may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- unwanted growth of facial hair;
- severe scalp irritation;
- [headache](#), dizziness, confusion; or
- chest pain, fast heartbeats;
- swelling in your hands or feet, rapid weight gain;
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling).

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 FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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## Warnings

Do not use this medicine if the skin on your scalp is red, swollen, irritated, or infected.

## Before using this medicine

Do not use this medicine if the skin on your scalp is red, swollen, irritated, or infected. This may allow more of the medication to be absorbed by your body, which could be dangerous.

Check the medicine label carefully to make sure this medicine will treat your specific type of [hair loss](#).

Use only the foam or solution that is made for your gender. Women should not use minoxidil topical products that are made specifically for men.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use this medicine if you have other medical conditions, especially [heart disease](#).

Do not use this medicine on anyone under 18 years old.

## Pregnancy

Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant.

## Breastfeeding

Do not use this medicine if you are breastfeeding a baby.

**i** [Rogaine pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I use Rogaine foam or solution?

Dry your hair and scalp before applying the solution or foam.

Apply the recommended amount to the affected areas of the scalp.

Rogaine for men 5% is usually applied twice daily, in the morning and at night.

Rogaine for women foam 5% is applied once daily. Rogaine for women solution 2% is applied twice daily.

Apply this medication only on your scalp. Do not use it on any other part of your body.

Wash your hands after applying this medicine.

It may take up to 4 months or longer before you notice new hair growth. New hair may be soft, colorless, and barely visible. With further treatment, the hair should start to have the same color and thickness as your existing hair.

Talk to your doctor if you do not see any hair growth after 4 months of treatment.

Use exactly as directed on the label or as your doctor prescribes. Do not use in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Using more of this medicine than recommended will not speed up hair growth and may cause dangerous side effects.

This medicine comes with patient instructions for safe and effective use. Follow these directions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Store at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.

Keep the topical foam canister away from open flames or high heat, such as in a car on a hot day. If it gets too hot, the canister may explode. Do not puncture or burn an empty canister.

## Rogaine dosing information (foam and solution)

### Men's Rogaine Extra Strength Solution (5%)

Apply 1 mL with the dropper twice daily to the affected hair loss area on the scalp.

### Men's Rogaine Foam (5%)

Apply half a capful twice a day.

Rinsed fingers in cold water and dry them to prevent foam from melting on warm hands.

Hold the can straight upside down to ensure the foam dispenses properly.

Press the nozzle to dispense half a capful of foam onto a cold surface such as cold hands or a dish.

Part your hair to expose the hair loss area and massage foam into the scalp (not the hair).

Replace the cap and wash hands and any surface thoroughly after use.

## Women's Rogaine Solution (2%)

Apply 1 mL with the dropper twice a day directly onto the scalp in the hair loss area on the scalp.

## Women's Rogaine Foam (5%)

Apply half a capful once a day.

Rinsed fingers in cold water and dry them to prevent foam from melting on warm hands.

Hold the can straight upside down to ensure the foam dispenses properly.

Press the nozzle to dispense half a capful of foam onto a cold surface such as cold hands or a dish.

Part your hair to expose the hair loss area and massage foam into the scalp (not the hair).

Replace the cap and wash hands and any surface thoroughly after use.

Foam to remain on the scalp for about 4 hours before washing.

## General Dosing Informations

- Evidence of hair growth may take 2 months or more of twice daily applications.
- If hair regrowth occurs, use must be continued for continued hair growth; re-grown hair may disappear within 3 to 4 months of stopping and the balding process will continue.
- If you do not see any results after 4 months, speak with your doctor.

 [Detailed Rogaine dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

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

## What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of minoxidil topical is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

## What should I avoid while using this medicine?

Avoid getting the foam or solution in the eyes, nose, or mouth. If this occurs, rinse the area with water.

Products are flammable: Avoid fire, flame or smoking during or immediately following application.

Avoid using other skin products on the areas you treat with this medication unless your doctor tells you to.

Read Package Insert for advice on hair treatments, hair coloring, perming, relaxes or chemical treatments.

## What other drugs will affect this medicine?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied minoxidil. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription

and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

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

## Does Rogaine interact with my other drugs?

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

Rogaine

+

Enter a drug name

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## Storage

- Controlled Room Temperature 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F)
- Foam product should not be exposed to heat or store at temperatures above 120° F (49° C)

## Ingredients

Active Ingredient

Inactive Ingredients: Minoxidil

**Men's Rogaine Extra Strength 5% Solution** inactive ingredients: alcohol, propylene glycol, purified water

**Women's Rogaine Solution (2%)** alcohol, propylene glycol, purified water

**Women's Rogaine Foam (5%)** butane, butylated hydroxytoluene, cetyl alcohol, citric acid, glycerin, isobutane, lactic acid, polysorbate 60, propane, purified water, SD alcohol 40-B, stearyl alcohol

**Men's Rogaine Foam (5%)** butane, butylated hydroxytoluene, cetyl alcohol, citric acid, glycerin, isobutane, lactic acid, polysorbate 60, propane, purified water, SD alcohol 40-B, stearyl alcohol

## Company

Johnson and Johnson Consumer Inc  
Skillman, NJ08558.

## Popular FAQ

Does minoxidil work for beards?



### References

1. [Women's Rogaine Solution Product Label](#)

2. [Men's Rogaine Extra Strength Solution Product Label](#)
3. [Women's Rogaine Foam \(5%\) Product Label](#)
4. [Men's Rogaine Foam \(5%\) Product Label](#)

## More about Rogaine (minoxidil topical)

- [Check interactions](#)
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## Professional resources

- [Minoxidil \(Topical\) monograph](#)

## Other brands

[Hair Regrowth Treatment for Women](#), [Hair Regrowth Treatment for Men](#)

## Other formulations

- [Women's Rogaine](#)
- [Rogaine For Men Extra Strength](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Alopecia](#)

## Further information

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)



**Availability**  
Rx and/or OTC

**Pregnancy & Lactation**  
Risk data available

**CSA Schedule\***  
N/A Not a controlled drug



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4.7 / 10

[52 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Men's Rogaine 5% topical aerosol foam](#)

Men

Men

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