

Finasteride Regret: A Life-Changing Hair Loss Mistake

Description

Online Hair Loss Medication: A Risky Proposition

Michelle Roberts, Nat Wright, and Adam Eley, BBC News

Several online platforms have been found prescribing men a hair-loss medication with potentially hazardous side effects, bypassing necessary safety checks, according to BBC investigations. Finasteride, a drug associated with risks like suicidal thoughts and impotence, is often delivered via mail from major brands without requiring an in-person consultation.

Kyle, a 26-year-old from Wakefield, purchased the pills online through a simplistic 'tick-box' form. "I made an impulsive decision that upended my life," Kyle lamented.

Prompted by a friend's recommendation last spring, Kyle began taking finasteride after doing minimal research. "I just googled it, and these online pharmacies popped up everywhere. It was as easy as pie," Kyle recounted. He had the prescription pills at his doorstep within a week, without any professional medical consultation. "No doctor checked my condition; it was like jumping in blind."

Consequently, Kyle suffered from unprecedented sexual, mental, and physical health issues. These problems persisted even after he ceased taking the medication. "Life feels colorless; it stripped away my emotions and personality," he shared, noting his withdrawal from social activities and sports.

Finasteride, widely used among men in the UK for hair loss, works by preventing testosterone from converting into dihydrotestosterone (DHT), the hormone that stunts hair growth. Despite its benefits, UK regulators warned about possible severe side effects, demanding manufacturers include a safety alert card in packaging.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency notes manufacturers have up to a year for compliance. Meanwhile, online providers Hims, Superdrug, and Boots claim they warn customers of risks, though the experience suggests safety checks remain inconsistent.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery emphasize thorough check-ups. They insist on gathering medical history, sharing photographs, and offering video consultations to better evaluate potential risks.

Nearly a year after first ordering the medication, Kyle regrets his decision lamenting, "It was vanity at play, but insecurity makes you do foolish things. Had I known the risks, I'd have steered clear."

Vocabulary List:



- 1. Hazardous /'hæz.a.dəs/ (adjective): Involving risk or danger.
- 2. Impulsive /Im'pʌl.sɪv/ (adjective): Acting or done without forethought.
- 3. Unprecedented /nn'pres.i.den.tid/ (adjective): Never done or known before.
- 4. Compliance /kəmˈplaɪ.əns/ (noun): The action of complying with a wish or command.
- 5. **Demanding** /dɪˈmænd.ɪn/ (adjective): Requires much effort or attention.
- 6. Insecurity /,ɪn.sɪ'kjʊr.ɪ.ti/ (noun): Lack of confidence or assurance; self-doubt.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What medication was Kyle prescribed online for hair loss?

Option: Minoxidil Option: Finasteride Option: Biotin Option: Propecia

IS.COM 2. What potential risks are associated with Finasteride?

Option: Weight gain Option: Suicidal thoughts Option: Elevated mood Option: Improved memory

3. What side effect did Kyle experience after taking the medication?

Option: Improved mood

Option: Enhanced physical performance Option: Sexual and mental health issues Option: Improved social interactions

4. What organization demands manufacturers to include a safety alert card in packaging for Finasteride?

Option: European Union

Option: World Health Organization

Option: UK regulators

Option: FDA

5. Which online providers were mentioned in the article that deliver Finasteride?



Option: Amazon, Walmart, eBay Option: Boots, Superdrug, Hims Option: Target, CVS, Walgreens Option: Alibaba, AliExpress, DHgate

6. What professional societies emphasize thorough check-ups for individuals taking hair loss medication?

Option: Royal Society of Medicine and British Medical Association

Option: Royal Pharmaceutical Society and British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery

Option: American Medical Association and American Dental Association

Option: World Health Organization and International Red Cross

True-False

- 7. Kyle was careful and well-informed before purchasing the hair loss medication online.
- 8. UK regulators have not warned about severe side effects associated with Finasteride.
- 9. Boots, Superdrug, and Hims always conduct thorough safety checks before delivering medication.
- 10. Kyle experienced long-term health issues even after stopping the medication.
- 11. Finasteride prevents testosterone from converting into DHT.
- 12. Kyle feels more vibrant and sociable after taking the medication.

Gap-Fill

13. According to the article, Kyle purchased the pills online through a simplistic
form.
14. The UK regulators demanded manufacturers include a safety alert card in packaging by a deadline of
15. The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency gave manufacturers
for compliance.



16. Kyle regrets his decision to try the medication, citing "It was vanity at play, but ins	ecurity makes you do
things."	
17. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Association of Hair Restoration S	urgery emphasize
gathering medical history, sharing photographs, and offering	consultations for risk
evaluation.	
18. Kyle expressed that he would have avoided taking the medication had he known a	bout the
involved.	

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Finasteride 2. Suicidal thoughts 3. Sexual and mental health issues 4. UK regulators 5. Boots, Superdrug, Hims 6. Royal Pharmaceutical Society and British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. tick-box 14. a year for compliance or up to a year for compliance 15. up to a year or a year

16. foolish 17. video 18. risks

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to substances that bind to a receptor and activate or stimulate it to produce a biological response?

Option: Agonists Option: Prohibit Option: Hazardous Option: Impulsive

2. Which term describes the process of interaction and integration among people companies and governments worldwide?

Option: Insecurity
Option: Globalization
Option: Compliance



Option: Array

3. What term refers to the act or process of passing something from one person or place to another?

Option: Quarantine
Option: Infectious
Option: Transmission
Option: Mitigate

4. What is the term for the ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin?

Option: Surge Option: Immunity Option: Substantial Option: Dilemma

5. Which term refers to the act of conforming to a rule command or request?

Option: Demands
Option: Extreme
Option: Caution
Option: Compliance

6. What activity involves allocating resources usually money in expectation of benefit in the future?

Option: Accuracy Option: Investing Option: Severe Option: Contagious

7. Which term refers to the process of combining different elements into a whole?

Option: Unprecedented Option: Integration Option: Cardiovascular Option: Dilemma

8. What term describes the quality or state of being correct or precise?

Option: Risk

Option: Impulsive Option: Accuracy Option: Symptoms

9. What are the subjective manifestations of a pathological condition?



Option: Risk

Option: Infectious
Option: Symptoms
Option: Consequences

10. Which term refers to the conditions under which something is limited or restricted?

Option: Caution
Option: Limitations

Option: Array

Option: Navigation

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11	diseases refer to conditions	that involve the heart or b	lood vessels.
12. The scale of the natural d	isaster was	and the impact w	vas felt for years.
13. Efforts to	the effects of clim	ate change are crucial for t	the planet's future.
14. The museum displayed ar	n impressive	of artifacts from	different historical
periods.			
15. Individuals exposed to co	ntagious diseases may be p	aced in	to prevent
further spread.			
16. The storm warning indica	ted	$_$ weather conditions with h	nigh winds and heavy
rainfall.			
17. Studying for medical scho	ool exams is known to be	due	to the vast amount of
material to cover.			
18. His	decision to quit his job s	surprised everyone as he ha	ad not planned it
beforehand.			



19. Working with certain chemicals without proper protective gear can be extremely
to health.
20. The flu virus is known to be highly and can spread rapidly in crowded places.
Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)
21. She faced a moral when deciding between helping her friend cheat or reporting the cheating.
22. The common cold is an disease that spreads easily among people.
23. Scientific experiments require a high level of to ensure reliable results.
24. There was a sudden in the number of COVID-19 cases in the region leading to a healthcare crisis.
25. The company experienced a increase in profits after implementing cost-saving measures.
26. Advanced GPS technology has revolutionized the way we approach while driving.
27. The scientific discovery was considered due to its groundbreaking nature.
28. The high-stress job often places significant on employees to meet tight deadlines.
29. When handling hazardous materials it is essential to proceed with great to prevent accidents.
30. is a type of respiratory virus that can cause symptoms similar to the common cold.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Agonists 2. Globalization 3. Transmission 4. Immunity 5. Compliance 6. Investing 7. Integration 8. Accuracy 9. Symptoms 10. Limitations

Gap-Fill: 11. Cardiovascular 12. unprecedented 13. mitigate 14. array 15. quarantine 16. severe 17. demanding 18. impulsive 19. hazardous 20. contagious

Matching sentence: 1. Dilemma 2. Infectious 3. Accuracy 4. Surge 5. Substantial 6. Navigation 7. Unprecedented 8. Demands 9. Caution 10. Metapneumovirus

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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