



ANDROGENETIC ALOPECIA
“Male Pattern Hair loss”

What is Androgenetic Alopecia? Androgenetic alopecia is a hereditary balding or thinning of the hair. It may be passed on from either the mother’s or father’s sides of the family.

This type of hair loss can occur in both men and women. In men, there is a receding of the frontal hairline at the temples and loss over the vertex and then crown. In women, the frontal hairline is often maintained with more loss over the crown. Onset may occur as early as the teen years.

Can Androgenetic Alopecia be treated? There is no cure for androgenetic alopecia, but early intervention can help to slow down the loss. Topical minoxidil solution (eg: Rogaine) is available over the counter and may be applied twice daily. For men, an oral prescription pill called finasteride (eg: Propecia) may be taken daily. Finasteride blocks the formation of a male hormone in the hair follicle. This is not a treatment for hair loss in women and women of childbearing age should avoid handling the pills as it may cause birth defects in an unborn fetus.

Those with extensive hair loss may consider hair transplantation. This involves removing hair from one area and transplanting it to the bald or thinned areas. This is a highly specialized cosmetic procedure and is not a medically covered benefit.