Testosterone-Finasteride combination implant

Who, what, where, when and why

The combination testosterone-finasteride sustained release implant is a novel, combination pellet formulated by Dr. Glaser. It contains the active ingredients testosterone (hormone) and finasteride (5-alpha reductase inhibitor) in a sustained release, non-oral pellet implant. The combination allows simultaneous and continuous delivery of both active ingredients with greater clinical efficacy and fewer side effects. The implant is placed in the subcutaneous tissue along with the testosterone pellets.

**Background**

Testosterone, delivered by subcutaneous pellet implant, has been used in the United States, Europe and Australia in both men and women to treat symptoms of androgen deficiency. Many side effects of testosterone therapy are actually due to dihydrotestosterone, a strong metabolite of testosterone.

Testosterone is metabolized to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) via the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, which is present in excess quantities in the prostate, scalp, and skin. Excess DHT is causative for benign prostatic hypertrophy, male pattern baldness in men and women, increased body hair (hirsutism in women), increased facial hair, and acne.

Finasteride, a 5-alpha reductase inhibitor, prevents the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone in the skin, scalp and prostate gland. Finasteride has been used topically on skin and orally to treat male pattern baldness, acne, increased body hair, hirsuitism, benign prostatic hypertrophy and prostate cancer. 5-alpha reductase inhibitors also prevent the conversion of progesterone to 5-alpha dihydroprogesterone, a possible cancer-promoting metabolite of progesterone.

**Potential side effects of testosterone therapy due to excess DHT**

* Acne
* Increased facial hair
* Hirsutism (increased body hair)
* Male pattern balding
* Benign prostatic hypertrophy
* Proliferation of prostate cancer

This novel combination implant is for use in patients with symptoms of relative androgen deficiency who may benefit from testosterone therapy and have side effects from elevated DHT (e.g., male pattern balding, scalp hair loss, excessive face hair, excessive body hair, hirsutism, and acne).

If you have a problem with acne or excessive body hair, ask Dr. Glaser about the combination implant.

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