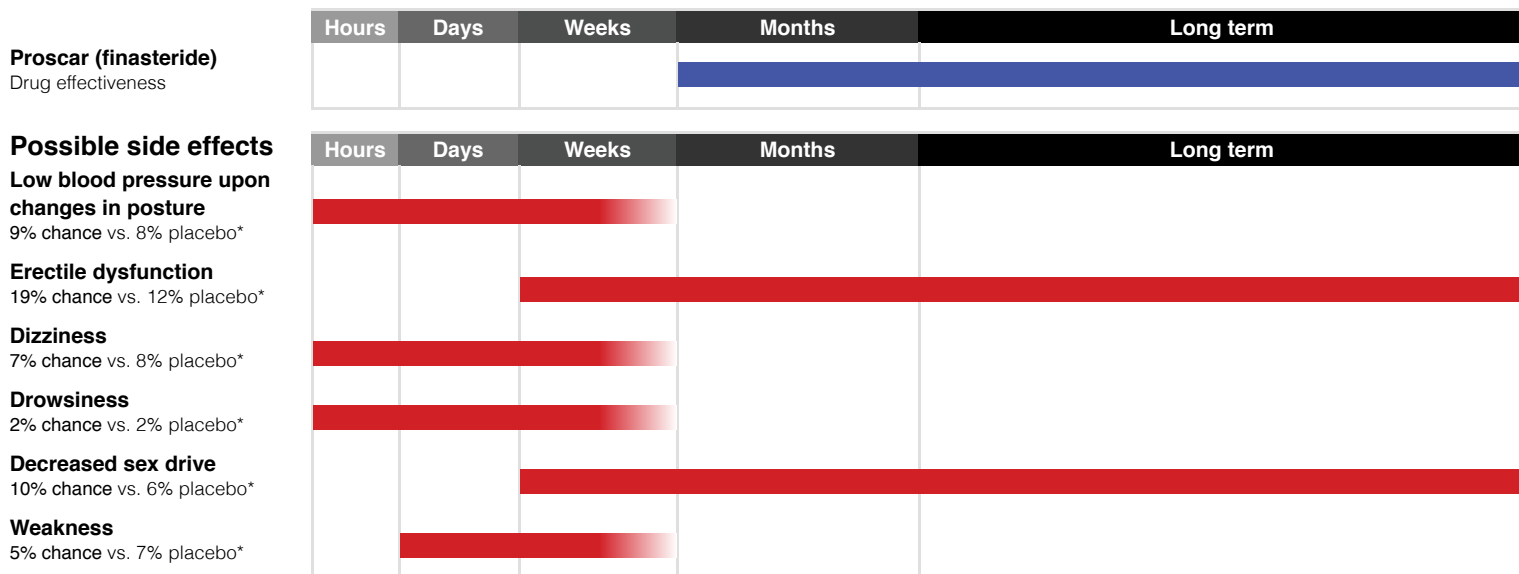


# Proscar (finasteride) basics

**Improves prostate symptoms and lowers your urge to urinate.** Proscar (finasteride) reduces prostate size and relieves symptoms of enlarged prostate, but can cause a loss of sexual desire or arousal when you first start taking this medication.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take with or without food.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- Pregnant women, women of childbearing age, or those trying to conceive must not touch crushed or broken capsules.
- Have blood work checked as directed by your doctor.
- Do not donate blood while using this drug and for 1 month after stopping.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Risk during pregnancy and use in children

Pregnant women or females of childbearing age should never handle crushed or broken tablets of Proscar (finasteride) because it can cause serious birth defects in the unborn baby. Proscar (finasteride) is not approved for use in children.

### Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels

Proscar (finasteride) has affected PSA serum levels. An increase in PSA, even if within the normal range, may signal the presence of prostate cancer. Have a rectal exam (to check prostate gland) and blood work (PSA test). Talk with your doctor.

### Prostate cancer

In a clinical study, a form of prostate cancer was seen more often in some men taking Proscar (finasteride) than in those who were not. Talk with your doctor if this is a concern.