

**Table SI. Characteristics of the included studies**

Study	Treatment	Study setting	Study design	Study population	Trial duration, weeks	Subjects, <i>n</i>		Age, years, mean (SD)	
						5-ARIs	Placebo	5-ARIs	Placebo
Kaufman et al. (1998) (18) and FMPHLSG (2002) (16) <sup>a</sup>	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US, 33 centres Non-US, 27 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre, multinational)	Men aged 18–41 years with AGA	48	779	774	US, 33 (0.2) Non-US, 31 (0.3)	US, 34 (0.2) Non-US, 31 (0.3)
Roberts et al. (1999) (19)	Finasteride 1 mg/day*	US, 23 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 18–36 years with AGA	24	117	233	30 (0.4)	30 (0.4)
Leyden et al. (1999) (20)	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US, 15 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 18–40 years with AGA	48	166	160	33 (0.4)	32 (0.4)
Drake et al. (1999) (6)	Finasteride 1 mg/day*	US, 16 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 18–50 years with AGA	6	37	67	36 (range 21–50)	38 (range 19–49)
Neste et al. (2000) (21)	Finasteride 1 mg/day	Europe, 10 centres US, 2 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 18–40 years with AGA	48	106	106	30.2 (0.6)	29.3 (0.6)
Price et al. (2002) (17) and Price et al. (2006) (15) <sup>b</sup>	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US	RDBPCT	Men aged 22–40 years with AGA	48	33	33	32.9 (4.8)	30.9 (4.4)
Stough et al. (2002) (22)	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US	RDBPCT	9 pairs of male identical twins aged 20–45 years	48	9	9	38.6 (2.5)	38.6 (2.5)
Whiting et al. (2003) (23)	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US, 32 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 41–60 years with AGA <sup>c</sup>	96	286	138	49.9 (5.5)	49.8 (5.3)
Kawashima et al. (2004) (24)	Finasteride 1 mg/day*	Japan, 9 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 20–50 years with AGA	48	139	138	40 (6)	40 (6)
Leavitt et al. (2005) (25)	Finasteride 1 mg/day	US, 2 centres	RDBPCT (bicentre)	Men aged 20–45 years with AGA undergoing hair transplantation	52	40	39	40 (6)	41 (7)
Olsen et al. (2006) (26)	Dutasteride 0.5 mg/day*	US, 21 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 21–45 years with AGA	24	68	64	36.1 (6.3)	35.8 (6.2)
Stough et al. (2007) (27)	Dutasteride 0.5 mg/day	US	RDBPCT	17 pairs of male identical twins aged 18–50 years	48	17	17	NR	NR
Amory et al. (2007) (28)	Dutasteride 0.5 mg/day*	US, 7 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Healthy men aged 18–55 years <sup>d</sup>	52	33	32	35 (10)	35 (8)
Eun et al. (2010) (29)	Dutasteride 0.5 mg/day	Republic of Korea, 4 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre)	Men aged 18–49 years with AGA	24	73	75	37.8 (7.1)	38.4 (6.6)
Gubelin et al. (2014) (30) <sup>e</sup>	Finasteride 1 mg/day* Dutasteride 0.5 mg/day*	Non-US, 39 centres	RDBPCT (multicentre, multinational)	Men aged 20–50 years with AGA	24	179	181	38.0 (7.81)	38.7 (8.43)
					24	184	181	38.6 (7.66)	38.7 (8.43)

<sup>a</sup>Continuation of the trial of Kaufman et al. (1998) (18). <sup>b</sup>Continuation of the trial of Price et al. (2002) (17). <sup>c,d</sup>Owing to the heterogeneity of its study population, this study was omitted from the sensitivity analysis. <sup>e</sup>The only study in which the safety profile of 1 mg/day finasteride, 0.5 mg/day dutasteride, and placebo was simultaneously compared.

\*Data on 1 mg/day finasteride or 0.5 mg/day dutasteride and placebo were selectively extracted from multiple comparisons.

SD: standard deviation; 5-ARIs: 5 $\alpha$ -reductase inhibitors; FMPHLSG: Finasteride Male Pattern Hair Loss Study Group; RDBPCT: randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled trials; AGA: androgenetic alopecia; NR: not reported.