INTRODUCTION

- Recent studies have suggested an increased risk of suicidality and psychological adverse events with finasteride use in patients younger than 45.
- We prescribe young patients finasteride for androgenic alopecia, particularly in those who take supplemental testosterone for hypogonadism and sexual dysfunction.

Objective: Evaluate the ratio of adverse events in patients on finasteride who were also medically treated for hypogonadism and sexual dysfunction.

METHODS

- We surveyed VigiBase, the World Health Organization’s global database of individual case safety reports to detect adverse reactions of interest reported with finasteride.
- Adverse events of interest were reported as anxiety disorder and symptoms, depressed mood disorders and disturbance, and suicidal and self-injurious behaviors.
- These findings were stratified by indication (BPH and alopecia), age (<45 and >45 years), use of testosterone, and use of phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors (PDE5i).
- The strength of association was demonstrated by ROR.
- Case data obtained in June of 2021.

RESULTS

- Finasteride users in VigiBase: 611 reports of suicidality.
- 2392 reports of depressed mood disorders and disturbances.
- 2352 reports of anxiety disorders and symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th># of cases</th>
<th>Expected ROR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>1.89 (1.74-2.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F+T</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.80 (0.35-1.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F + PDE5i</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.22 (0.12-0.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2392</td>
<td>4.60 (4.41-4.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F+T</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1.23 (0.88-1.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F + PDE5i</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.25 (0.19-0.33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CONCLUSIONS

- RORs of suicidality and psychological adverse events were not elevated in patients with concomitant use of finasteride with testosterone.
- Moreover, RORs were decreased in patients with use of combination finasteride and PDE5i.
- Treatment of hypogonadism or sexual dysfunction may be protective in the use of finasteride for alopecia.

REFERENCES