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Thank you for entrusting in the compounding services at Madison Medical Compounding Pharmacy to help meet the unique medication needs of your patients. We are excited to share our monthly newsletter with you and look forward to working with you. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can assist you and your practice.

LeAnn Chambers, Pharm.D. and Matthew Chambers, Pharm.D.

Compounded Solutions for Hair Loss

Hair loss can be a deeply personal issue that affects confidence, self-image, and emotional well-being. While the scalp is the most common area of concern, some individuals also experience thinning or loss of eyelashes and eyebrows due to factors such as genetics, aging, or underlying medical conditions.

Unfortunately, some commercial products contain irritating ingredients or may not be suitable for every patient. That's where compounded medications can offer a more tailored approach—especially for those who haven't seen results with traditional therapies.



Bimatoprost is well known in its commercial ophthalmic form, originally used to manage intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients. However, it was soon discovered to have a beneficial side effect: increased eyelash growth. Today, 0.03% bimatoprost is FDA-approved for treating eyelash hypotrichosis—helping to make lashes longer, thicker, and darker, often within two months of use.

This same active ingredient can be compounded into customized preparations suitable for the scalp and eyebrows, offering expanded benefits beyond the lash line.

Recent Studies

Numerous studies support the use of 0.03% bimatoprost for enhancing lash growth. It is currently FDA-approved for this purpose and has been shown to increase eyelash length, thickness, and pigmentation.

A randomized controlled trial comparing 0.03% bimatoprost to 2% topical minoxidil found both treatments effective for addressing eyebrow hypotrichosis. This opens the door to alternative therapies for patients struggling with thinning or sparse brows. Emerging studies suggest that bimatoprost may also stimulate hair follicles on the scalp, encouraging regrowth in areas affected by alopecia areata. In a pilot study, patients treated with 0.03% bimatoprost experienced better regrowth with fewer side effects compared to those using topical steroids. Another study comparing bimatoprost with clobetasol found comparable hair regrowth, with bimatoprost having the added benefit of faster results and more pigmented hair. Case reports have even documented success in treating steroid-resistant alopecia in pediatric patients.

Potential Side Effects

Topical application of bimatoprost may cause mild side effects, such as localized skin discoloration, due to increased melanogenesis. This pigmentation typically reverses once treatment is stopped. Since bimatoprost can also darken hair color, patients with lighter hair should be informed of this potential outcome.

To improve tolerability, compounded versions can be prepared without common irritants that may cause dryness and discomfort in sensitive individuals.

Additional Compounded Options for Hair Loss

Bimatoprost is just one part of a broader toolkit for personalized hair loss treatment. Other commonly compounded therapies include:

- **Minoxidil** - Available over-the-counter in topical form, minoxidil can also be compounded into oral capsules for patients who prefer not to apply a solution or experience skin irritation. Oral versions may be more effective for some individuals and allow for more consistent dosing.
- **Finasteride** - While oral finasteride is effective at improving hair density, it may cause side effects such as sexual dysfunction or breast tenderness, especially in men. Compounded versions can be created with lower doses or in topical form to reduce systemic side effects while maintaining efficacy.

These therapies can be tailored to meet the needs of each patient, whether used alone or in combination for a multi-faceted approach.

Whether your patient is seeking thicker lashes, fuller brows, or improved scalp coverage, compounded therapies may provide options that can be designed just for them. With access to high-quality ingredients and the ability to eliminate unwanted excipients, customized formulations may help address hair loss.

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Madison Medical Compounding Pharmacy | 111 Fountains Blvd, Bldg B, Suite 2 | Madison, MS 39110 US

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