

Mayo Clinic Minute

Treatment for hair loss and women

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	What woman doesn't want thick, luxurious hair? The reality is ...
Lisa Drage, M.D. Dermatology Mayo Clinic	"... more than half of all women will have hair loss by the time they reach the age of 70."
Vivien Williams	Dr. Lisa Drage says several things can cause thinning hair: pregnancy, menopause, medical problems, certain medications, your genetics and even stress.
Lisa Drage, M.D.	"The most common form of hair loss in women would be female-pattern hair loss, and that's a type of genetic and hormonal hair loss that gradually effects most women."
Vivien Williams	What can you do about it? Well, Dr. Drage says that depends on why you're losing your hair. But, for the most common form of hair loss, over-the-counter medications such as minoxidil work for about two-thirds of the women who use it.
Lisa Drage, M.D.	"The tough thing about hair loss is it takes a while for anything to really have an effect."
Vivien Williams	From six weeks to a year. There are also prescription medications that target hormones in your scalp. But no treatment is perfect. Dr. Drage says research into managing female-pattern hair loss is ongoing. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.