INPLASY

Comparative effects of conventional and alternative therapies: a protocol for a network meta-analysis study

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - None.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Other - Not specified.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 21 July 2025 and was last updated on 21 July 2025.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The aim of the proposed study is to determine the relative effectiveness conventional and alternative therapies for androgenetic alopecia.

Rationale The literature is filled with published trial studies on alternative (i.e., non-allopathic) therapies for androgenetic alopecia. However, publication of such studies has expanded the knowledge gap on the conventional and alternative therapies' relative effectiveness.

Condition being studied Androgenetic alopecia.

METHODS

Participant or population Males diagnosed with androgenetic alopecia.

Intervention Conventional therapies for androgenetic alopecia and select alternative options.

Comparator Placebo or vehicle.

Study designs to be included Trial studies.

Eligibility criteria The proposed study will exclude data published in a non-English language. Studies that do not investigate persons with androgenetic alopecia will be excluded..

Information sources The electronic databases that will be searched will include PubMed.

Main outcome(s) Change in total hair density 24 weeks after baseline.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Study-level risk of bias will be evaluated using Cochrane Collaborations' risk of bias (RoB) tools.

Strategy of data synthesis Bayesian network meta-analysis.

Subgroup analysis None.

Sensitivity analysis For sensitivity analyses, the proposed study will adjust for confounding variable(s).

Country(ies) involved Canada.

Keywords melatonin; saw palmetto; network meta-analysis; androgenetic alopecia.

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