

Feminizing Hormones Effects & Risks

| Anticipated Effect | Permanence | Expected onset | Expected max.effect |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Body fat redistribution | Reversible | 3-6 months | 2-5 years |
| Decreased muscle mass/strength | Reversible | 3-6 months | 1-2 years |
| Softening of skin/decreased oiliness | Reversible | 3-6 months | unknown |
| Breast growth | Irreversible | 3-6 months | 2-3 years |
| Decreased libido | Reversible | 1-3 months | 1-2 years |
| Decreased spontaneous erections | Reversible | 1-3 months | 3-6 months |
| Decreased testicular volume | Variable | 3-6 months | 2-3 years |
| Decreased sperm production | Variable | Variable | Variable |
| Thinning / slowed growth of body and facial hair | Reversible | 6-12 months | >3 years |
| Hair loss (male pattern baldness) stops | No regrowth | 1-3 months | 1-2 years |

| Risk Level | Risk of Feminizing Hormones |
|--|--|
| Likely | Blood clots - can cause stroke, pulmonary embolism, heart attack Gallstones Transient high liver enzymes (rare: liver damage) Weight gain High triglycerides – which can lead to pancreatitis and cardiovascular events |
| Likely, if over age 50 and additional risk factors present | Cardiovascular disease- stroke, pulmonary embolism, heart attack |
| Possible | High blood pressure - is a major risk factor for coronary artery disease, stroke, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, peripheral arterial disease, vision loss, chronic kidney disease, and dementia High prolactin hormone (breast milk) in first year of treatment or prolactinoma (benign tumor of the pituitary gland that produces a hormone called prolactin) |
| Possible, if additional risk factors present | Type 2 diabetes – can lead to kidney disease, eye damage, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, nerve damage and amputation |
| Inconclusive | Breast cancer - number of years on estrogen, family history of breast cancer, obesity and use of progestin influence risk |
| Other possible side effects | Erectile dysfunction Decreased libido Infertility/decreased sperm production |

For more information: WPATH Standards of Care Version 7