

34.3 Which of the following drugs is taken orally before using UVA radiation in the treatment of severe cases of psoriasis?

- A. Methoxsalen.
- B. Hydroquinone.
- C. Finasteride.
- D. Minoxidil.
- E. Tazarotene.

Correct answer = A. In severe cases of psoriasis, methoxsalen is taken orally followed by UVA phototherapy. Other drugs are not options for treating severe cases of psoriasis. Hydroquinone is a topical depigmenting agent used for the treatment of photoaging. Finasteride is an oral drug for the treatment of alopecia, and minoxidil is a topical drug for alopecia. Tazarotene is a topical agent indicated for the treatment of acne or psoriasis.

34.4 Which of the following is correct regarding trichogenic agents?

- A. Minoxidil is known to decrease the microcirculation surrounding the follicle, thus decreasing cutaneous blood flow.
- B. A frequent adverse effect of topical minoxidil is orthostatic hypotension.
- C. Finasteride inhibits the 5- $\alpha$  reductase enzyme that controls the production of DHT from testosterone.
- D. An adverse effect associated with finasteride is increased libido.
- E. Only 6 months of finasteride is necessary for a lifelong benefit.

Correct answer = C. Androgenic alopecia is associated with DHT concentrations, and finasteride is known to inhibit the 5- $\alpha$  reductase enzyme required for the formation of DHT from testosterone. Continuous use of finasteride is needed to maintain therapeutic benefit for alopecia. Finasteride can decrease libido.