**Methods**

Next of kin relatives of suicide victims known to the Post-Finasteride Syndrome Foundation were made aware of this study via an e-mail sent by an administrator of the foundation. An invitation letter explaining the study was also publicly posted to Propeciahelp.com, a website and discussion forum for men suffering from persistent sexual, mental and physical side effects from finasteride.

The author included only cases whose medical records and autopsy reports by medical examiners were available for review. Additional information was available for some cases in the form of suicide notes, journals/e-mails of the deceased victims and narratives by relatives. Extracted data from the medical records were based upon guidelines for submitting adverse event reports from the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology and the International Society of Pharmacovigilance [10]. This information included age, sex, condition being treated, medical history, abnormal physical findings or laboratory findings, drug dosage, duration of therapy, symptoms reported, the presence or absence of other concomitant medication use, imaging results, toxicology results from autopsy reports and cause of death according to the medical examiner’s report.

To put the suicides in context, a search of the FDA’s Adverse Event Reporting System was also conducted. This database contains reports that may be submitted by patients, health care providers, study investigators, pharmaceutical companies and other sources.