

Ophthalmology

Atropine occlusion: Instillation of drops/ointment

Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine drops / ointment may be used as an initial treatment of amblyopia (lazy eye) or when patching treatment is not working. The main aim of atropine occlusion is to blur the vision in the good eye (when viewing close objects) to promote the vision in the weaker eye.

What are the effects of Atropine?

Atropine has two effects when instilled in the eyes:

- Dilates the pupil (makes the black part of the eye larger).
- Stops the eye from focusing properly which blurs the child's vision for close-up.

How often should I instil the eye drops?

The atropine drops/ointment should be instilled once daily. We advise using them in the morning for the first two days to assess any side effects. The drops can be instilled whilst the child is asleep if this is preferred.

How long do the effects of the Atropine last?

Atropine will cause blurred vision which may last up to seven days or more after using it. The pupil may also remain dilated for up to 14 days.

Are there any side effects?

- Do not use atropine if your child suffers from heart problems or has a high fever.
- It will make the dilated eye sensitive to light so avoid bright light. Wearing a sun hat may help.
- The child may feel a little discomfort when initially instilled, although the drops do not sting.
- Tell your ophthalmologist or orthoptist if your child is taking any other medication.

- If your child becomes hot and complains of a sore throat, becomes irritable or develops any of the following symptoms; a rash, headaches, nausea / vomiting, **stop using the atropine and seek medical advice immediately.**

How should I instil the Atropine drops / ointment?

1. Gently pull down the lower eyelid of the good eye with your finger.
2. Instil one drop of Atropine **or** squeeze a little ointment (about the size of a match head) into the area between the eyeball and the lower eyelid.
3. Release the eyelid.
4. If using Atropine drops (rather than ointment) press gently on the inner corner of the eye for one minute. This will avoid the solution draining away into the nose and being swallowed and then absorbed systemically.
5. Always wash your hands and your child's hands after using the drops to avoid it being taken internally.
6. Repeat the procedure at approximately the same time each day.
7. If you should run out of atropine eye drops or ointment, contact the orthoptist / ophthalmologist for a further prescription.
8. Continue instilling once daily until and including the day of your next appointment.

It is important that you:

- Do not use the Atropine beyond the expiry date.
- Do not use it after it has been opened for four weeks.
- Store the Atropine upright in a dry place, away from strong light and below 25°C (room temperature).
- Do not continue using atropine if you have missed an appointment as this may induce unwanted effects.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.
- **Warning:** Atropine is poisonous if taken internally.

For further information, or if you have any concerns, please contact:

**The Orthoptic Department
Clinic 3
Outpatients
Addenbrookes Hospital
Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 7DZ**

Telephone number: 01223 216528

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format:
01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माहिती वीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभजी शकाय जेवा माध्यम
(ओडीओ इमेज)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایه پرسیار بکه نه گهر نه وزانیاریهت دهوی به زمانیکی تر . به پیتی گهره یانیش به شیوهی دهنگ

Kurdish

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پر درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



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Document history

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