

What are the side effects of the drops?

Most people who use these drops do not suffer from any side effects, however, there is a slight possibility that some of the following may occur if an allergic reaction happens. Remember that these side effects are very unlikely with the amount of drops used.

- Irritation, swelling and possible conjunctivitis.
- Increased pressure within the eye.
- Dry mouth.
- Increased redness or dryness of skin.
- Heart beat irregularities.
- Changes in digestion/constipation.
- Urinary urgency/difficulty.
- Vomiting.
- Balance problems.
- Rash.
- Swollen stomach.
- Behaviour changes or trouble sleeping.
- Collapse.

If you have any concerns following the use of these drops, please contact your GP. **If your child swallows atropine go to your nearest A & E and take the drops with you.**

Contact Details.

Orthoptic Department

Tel: 01782 676001 option 5

www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoptics

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Eye Condition Patient Information Leaflet

Using Atropine Eye Drops for treatment of Amblyopia

Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language



Introduction

Your child is being treated for poor vision caused by a condition called amblyopia (lazy eye).

The vision in the lazy eye should improve if it is forced to work harder.

Atropine eye drops will be used to temporarily blur the sight in your child's better eye. This will allow the poorer eye to improve.

Atropine Eye drops

Atropine Eye drops usually provided by your Pharmacy as individual single dose plastic vials called minims. They should be stored at room temperature and out of the reach of children.

Please notify your child's school about using the eye drops and explain that this is the cause of your child's dilated pupil.

How do the drops work?

The drops temporarily dilate (enlarge) the pupils and relax the muscles in the eyes. This causes the eyes to be sensitive to light.

The effects can last for up to 10 days after the drops are stopped so your child may require more supervision during this time especially if they are at school.

Whilst using this treatment your child's vision will be reviewed every 8 weeks by the Orthoptist to check if the treatment is working.

It is important to attend your appointments during this treatment. Please let us know if you are not able to attend.

How do I use the drops?

Put **1 drop** into your child's eye **once on Saturday** and **once on Sunday** following the procedure below. You may put the drops in while your child is asleep.

Do not use Atropine drops if your child has a fever.

Procedure:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Open the packet and remove the lid of the minim tube containing the drops.
3. Have a paper tissue ready to use.
4. Tip the child's head back (you may prefer to let the child lie down; or you can stand behind them to put in the drops).
5. Gently pull down the lower eye lid.
6. Ask them to look up.
7. Let one drop fall into the gap between the lower eye lid and the eye ball. Be careful to make sure that the minim tube does not touch any part of the eye. Slight stinging is normally felt for 10 to 20 seconds after the drops are put into the eye.
8. Ask the child to keep their eyes closed for about 1 minute. (They may do this due to the stinging feeling). If possible, gently press on the inner corner of your child's eye where the tears drain away to ensure as much of the drop as possible remains in their eye.
9. Wipe away any drops and tears with the paper tissue.

It is very important that the drops are put in the eye using the procedure described.