

Patient information

Atropine occlusion in children: Instillation of drops

Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine drops 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 put into the eyes:

- Dilates the pupil (makes the black part of the eye larger).
- Stops the eye from focusing properly – blurring the child's vision temporarily whilst undergoing treatment.

How often should I put the drops into the good eye?

The atropine drops should be put into the eye twice per week. We advise using them in the morning for the first two days to assess any side effects. The drops can then be put in whilst the child is asleep if this is preferred.

How long do the effects of the Atropine last?

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

Are there any side effects I should look for?

- 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.
- Your child may feel a little discomfort when you put the drops into the eye.
- Tell your ophthalmologist or orthoptist if your child is taking any other medication.
- **Stop using the atropine and seek medical advice immediately** if your child becomes hot and complains of a sore throat, becomes irritable or develops any of the following symptoms: a rash, a headache or nausea/ vomiting.

How should I put the Atropine drops into the eye?

1. Gently pull down the lower eyelid of the good eye with your finger.
2. Put one drop of Atropine into the area between the eyeball and the lower eyelid.
3. Release the eyelid.
4. Press gently on the inner corner of the eyelids for one minute. This will avoid the solution draining away down the tear duct into the nose and being swallowed and then absorbed systemically through the stomach.
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, contact your GP for a further prescription.
8. Continue putting the drops in as instructed until and including the day of your next appointment.

It is important that you:

- Do not continue using Atropine if you have missed an appointment as this may induce unwanted effects.
- 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).

- 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:

Orthoptic Department

Eye Treatment Centre, West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane

Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QZ

Telephone number: 01284 713817

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk. This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



