Orthoptic Department

Atropine Penalisation for Amblyopia Treatment

Your child has been prescribed atropine

As an alternative treatment for amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye). Atropine paralyses the focusing muscles of the eye causing blurred vision in that eye.

Prescriptions for atropine eye drops will be obtained from the Eye Clinic and can be picked up from the hospital pharmacy following your Orthoptic appointment.

The idea is to blur the vision in your child's "good eye" so that they use their "weak eye". If your child has a squint, you may notice their squint swap to their "good eye".

If your child wears glasses he/she should still continue wearing these whilst on atropine treatment.

How do I administer atropine?

Drops are put in once a day to one eye, twice a week. For example, once on Saturday and then again on a Sunday. Or once on a Saturday and then again on a Wednesday.

After putting the drops in, wipe the excess off with a tissue. Please make sure your child's mouth is protected to make sure any excess does not spill into the mouth. The eye drops are **poisonous if swallowed.**
The pupil will enlarge, in some cases your child may be sensitive to bright light.

If you forget to administer the drops put them in as soon as you remember.

compassionate care

If you have difficulty instilling the atropine drops you may wish to try when your child is asleep. Please do not choose to do this the first time just in case your child may suffer any side effects.

Please ensure you wash your hands before and after instilling the atropine drops into your child's eyes. Do not rub your own eyes.

What are the side effects?

Atropine eye drops are usually well tolerated, but occasionally we see side effects such as:

- Fever / Temperature
- Skin Rash
- Hallucinations
- Dry mouth/Difficulty swallowing
- Abnormal increase or decrease in heart rate
- Restlessness

Please ensure you read the information leaflet included in the box with your eye drops.

If your child suffers any unwanted side effects please **STOP** using your drops and contact the eye clinic on 01484 355085 or the A & E department.

How do I store the eye drops?

Please ensure you keep the atropine eye drops upright, below 25ºC in a safe and dry place away from strong light.

It is essential that you keep them well out of reach from any child.

Atropine eye drops expire 28 days after opening them. Please throw them away carefully and safely.

Appointments

It is important that we see your child in the Orthoptic Clinic on a regular basis, (usually every 2 – 4 weeks depending on their age).

Cancelling your Appointment

If you need to cancel your appointment it is essential that you contact the Orthoptic Department (telephone number is below to rearrange). Please inform them you are on Atropine drop treatment and must be seen within 5 days. This is to ensure we personally re-arrange your child's appointment. It is essential that you attend regular Orthoptic appointments if your child is on this form of treatment. If not your treatment plan may be reviewed.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Orthoptic Department
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Tel: 01422 222218
or
Acre Mills Outpatient Department
Tel: 01484 355085

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو ی معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"