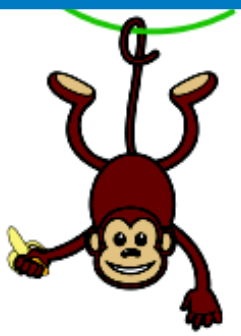
Orthoptic Department

Atropine to help your child adjust to glasses



Some children do not adjust to glasses straight away even when the prescription found is best for their vision. Atropine eye drops can be used to help. This medicine works by dilating the pupils and relaxing the focussing muscles of the eye.



When a child who is long-sighted is dilated, their vision is more blurred unless their glasses are worn. Atropine eye drops therefore quickly help children grow accustomed to wearing glasses and using them correctly.

Below are some frequently asked questions and their answers.

How should I administer the atropine eye drops?

The drops need to be instilled once a day, in both eyes, for up to 7 days.

Please ensure you wash your hands before and after instilling the drops into your child's eyes.

Try to use just one drop per eye. Wipe away any excess medication to ensure that this cannot be swallowed.

The pupils will enlarge and in some cases your child may become sensitive to bright light.

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

If you have difficulty instilling the 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.

If your child relaxes into their glasses before seven consecutive days of use, the drops can be discontinued.

compassionate care

What are the side effects?

Atropine eye drops are usually well tolerated, but occasionally side effects can occur.

These include:

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

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 the eye drops and contact the eye clinic on 01422 222091 or the A&E department.

How do I get the atropine prescription?

Prescriptions for Atropine eye drops are obtained from the Eye Clinic and processed for collection from the hospital pharmacy following your Orthoptic appointment.

How do I store the eye drops?

Atropine should be stored at room temperature away from direct sunlight and the reach of children or pets.

This medicine is poisonous if swallowed. If you suspect that this might have happened, please take your child to the nearest A&E department immediately.

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

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

Ophthalmology

Telephone No: 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 ਉੱਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ 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"