

Information for patients

Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine drops / ointment may be used for some patients as an alternative to wearing an eye patch for the treatment of amblyopia (reduced vision).

How does Atropine treatment work?

Atropine has 2 effects when instilled in the eyes:

- It dilates the pupil (makes the black part of the eye larger)
- It stops the eye from focusing properly – blurring the vision temporarily

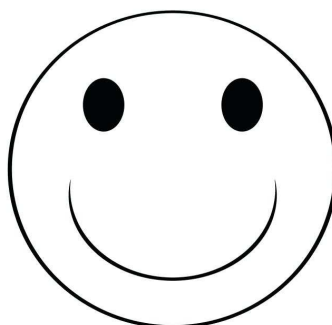
The main aim of Atropine treatment is to blur the vision in the good eye (mainly for close vision). This encourages use of the eye with poorer vision and by doing so aims to improve the vision in that eye with time.

Which eye should I put the drops / ointment in and how often?

Put one drop of Atropine 1% into the.....eye.....per day / week

RIGHT EYE

LEFT EYE



How should I put the drops / ointment in?

- Always wash your hands before and after handling the Atropine
- Gently pull down the lower eyelid of the eye with your finger
- Put one drop OR squeeze a little ointment (about the size of a match head) into the area between the eyeball and the lower eyelid. Avoid touching the eye with the nozzle of the bottle or tube
- Release the eyelid
- If using Atropine drops (rather than ointment) press gently on the inner corner of the eye for 1 minute. This will avoid the solution draining away into the nose and being swallowed

Information for patients



- Ensure your child avoids rubbing their eyes as this may spread the Atropine into the other eye
- Put the drops / ointment in at around the same time of day
- You may find it easier to put the drops in whilst your child is asleep

How long do the effects of Atropine last?

Atropine will cause blurred vision which may last up to 7 days or more after using it. The pupil may also remain dilated for up to 14 days.

Does the Atropine hurt?

No – unlike other eye drops, Atropine rarely stings.

Are there any side effects?

- It will make the dilated eye sensitive to light – a sun hat or sunglasses in bright conditions may help
- Do not use Atropine if your child has heart problems or has a high fever
- If your child becomes hot and complains of a sore throat, becomes irritable or develops any of the following symptoms; a rash, headaches, irregular heartbeat (complains of a thumping or fluttering sensation in the chest), nausea / vomiting – **STOP USING THE ATROPINE AND SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE IMMEDIATELY**

Tell your ophthalmologist (eye doctor) or orthoptist (eye care professional specialising in childhood vision and binocular vision disorders) if your child is taking any other medication.

Most children do not have any problems using Atropine drops / ointment.

How do I store the drops / ointment?

- Store the Atropine upright in a dry place, away from strong light and below 25 degrees Celsius (room temperature)
- Keep the Atropine out of reach of children. **WARNING** – Atropine is poisonous if swallowed

Information for patients

- Do not use Atropine beyond the expiry date
- Do not use Atropine after it has been opened for 4 weeks

How long should I use the Atropine drops / ointment for?

Treatment may be continued for several months although your child will have regular reviews with the orthoptist throughout the treatment.

What if I can't attend an appointment?

You should re-arrange an appointment as soon as possible. It is important that the orthoptist monitors the treatment at regular intervals.

Do I need to inform anyone my child is using Atropine?

You should inform your child's school about the use of the drops / ointment and the dilated pupil.

You should ensure that any doctor or dentist treating your child is aware that Atropine is being used.

Reference Section

Patient Information Leaflet: Atropine Occlusion – Instillation of Drops / Ointment, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/conditions/lazy-eye/treatment/

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

www.moorfields.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/Atropine%20treatment%20for%20Amblyopia%20%2B.pdf

Contact Details for Further Information

Orthoptists at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital
Tel: 03033 304569 Monday-Friday 08:15 – 17:00

Orthoptists at Scunthorpe General Hospital
Tel: 03033 302431 Monday-Thursday 08:30 – 16.30 and Friday 09:00 – 15:00

Orthoptists at Goole District Hospital
Tel: 03033 304013 Monday-Tuesday 09:00-16:30 (Wednesday-Friday contact Scunthorpe Orthoptists)

Information for patients

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

Date of Issue: April, 2019

Review Period: April, 2022

Author: Orthoptist

IFP-1047

© NLGFT 2019

