



**Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust**

PATIENT INFORMATION

Atropine Eye Drops Information

Atropine Summary:-

Date of issue:

Batch number of drops:

Expiry date of drops:

Instructions for use: Please instil one drop in each eye the night before your appointment at the eye clinic (see inside leaflet for further details)

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION ON ATROPINE EYE DROPS

WHAT ARE ATROPINE EYE DROPS?

Atropine eye drops are used to dilate (enlarge) the pupil of the eye, and to temporarily stop the eye from focusing.

WHY ARE THE DROPS REQUIRED?

It is necessary to enlarge the pupils to allow the eye care practitioner to carry out an accurate eye examination. This includes checking to see if glasses are needed and that the eyes are healthy. These drops may also be used as part of a treatment programme. This will be discussed with you by the eye care practitioner.

STORAGE

The drops do not need to be kept in a refrigerator but should be stored below 25 degrees C and protected from strong sunlight. Do not allow to freeze. Please store securely. Please keep away from children.

DO THE DROPS STING?

Drops cause a mild stinging sensation as they are put into the eye but this disappears quickly.

HOW ARE THE DROPS PUT IN?

Wash your hands thoroughly. Twist off the cap. Ask your child to look up. Gently pull down the lower eyelid and put the drop into the space between the lid and the eye. Please put one drop in each eye the evening prior to the appointment or as directed by the eye care practitioner. It may be easier to do this when your child is sleeping. The minims unit should be thrown away after one use even if there is some solution left.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF THE DROPS HAVE WORKED?

The pupil (black central part of the eye) will be enlarged. While the pupil is enlarged more light will enter the eye, which may cause some discomfort in bright light or sunshine. If sunny, a hat or sunglasses will help. Close work/reading will be difficult and blurred as the eye will not be able to focus.

HOW LONG WILL THE EFFECTS LAST?

The effects can last for up to 7 days.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE WHILE THE DROPS ARE EFFECTIVE?

An adult should supervise the child. If your child attends school, the teacher should be informed that your child has had eye drops and may be unable to read and write as well as normal.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Your child should not suffer from any unwanted side effects but occasionally one or more of the following can occur

- Dryness of the mouth.
- Flushing of the skin.
- Increased body temperature.
- Constipation.
- A change in heart rate.

If you notice any of these symptoms please speak to your GP or your eye care practitioner.

Please notify any other healthcare practitioners that you are taking these drops if attending other clinics.

During your time in hospital, it is important to us that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward Sister/Charge Nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

MATRON

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am – 5 pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward to deal with any concerns you may have.

INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patient's care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT HOSPITAL

If you have any other queries please telephone the Orthoptic department on 01704 705213 or 01695 656690.

ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Previously mentioned under “Adverse Reactions”.

CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT HOSPITAL

See “Special Instructions” above.

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) - 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) - 0800 328 6297

www.orthoptics.org.uk

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

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We would welcome your feedback about your experience
at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following
link:
<https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/fft/>

Thank you

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