



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Atropine 1% treatment for Amblyopia

Information for patients,
parents and carers

This leaflet explains how to use Atropine drops to treat Amblyopia (lazy eye) and what the possible side effects are.

What is Amblyopia?

A lazy eye or amblyopia occurs when the vision in one eye is reduced during the critical development of eyesight in childhood.

Treatment options:

- Patching of the good eye with an adhesive or fabric patch.
- Atropine drops instilled into the good eye.
- Non-intervention (accepting the reduced level of vision in the lazy eye).

How do Atropine drops work?

The drops relax the focusing muscles in the good eye during treatment which blurs the vision; this encourages the lazy eye to work. The drops also affect the muscles which dilates (enlarges) the pupil (dark circle at the centre of the eye).

You may need to inform your child's school about the use/effects of atropine and the enlarged pupil.

How to use Atropine drops

- Store in a safe place, away from children, at room temperature (keep at less than 25C).
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly before and after administering the drops.
- Place one drop from the single dose unit preparations (minims) into the **good eye** as instructed by the orthoptist. Then discard the unit.
- The drops should be used twice a week, e.g. Wednesday and Sunday.

What are the side effects of Atropine?

- Blurred vision which can last up to two weeks after treatment (take extra precautions on activities such as stairs, riding a bike, etc).
- Sensitivity to light.

Possible complications are:

- Stinging and redness of the eye after drops are used.
- Allergies (the eye becomes very red and itchy)
- Very rarely, increased eye pressure(possibly giving a very red, extremely painful eye)

Rarer general side effects:

- Dry mouth and skin.
- Redness of cheeks.

- Irritability and difficulty sleeping.
- High temperature.
- Difficulties passing urine and stool.
- Increased heartbeat.

If you think your child is experiencing symptoms related to Atropine drops, stop the treatment and contact your pharmacist or doctor.

If you have any questions please ring 0118 322 7683
Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.30pm

Visit the Trust website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

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This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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