

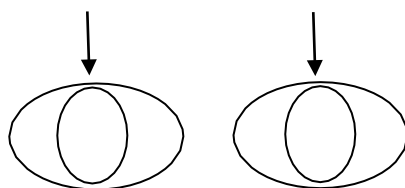
Children's ophthalmology

Atropine occlusion for children

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Child's name _____

Put drops in your child's right eye or left eye (clinician to circle)



Two days a week

Days:

What is atropine occlusion?

Atropine eye drops or ointment can be used as a form of occlusion therapy for children with lazy eye (amblyopia). This means reduced vision in one or, more rarely, both eyes. Please read the 'amblyopia and occlusion therapy' leaflet for more information.

What does atropine do?

Atropine has two effects:

- it makes bigger (dilates) the black part of the eye (pupil) temporarily. While dilated, the affected eye will be sensitive to light
- it stops the eye from focusing properly. So, this blurs the close-up (near) vision temporarily

How does atropine work to treat amblyopia?

The vision in the 'good eye' will be blurred when looking at close objects. This forces use of the 'lazy eye', which helps improve the vision in that eye.

How often are the drops used?

Atropine eye drops are used twice a week. The orthoptist will advise on the best days and times to put them in. You may be advised to use the drops in the morning at first to check for any side effects. Afterwards, the drops can be put in while your child is asleep if preferred

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Use the eye drops as soon as you remember the missed dose. But, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on with the regular dosing schedule.

How long do the effects of atropine last?

Your child's vision may remain blurred for several days. The black part of the eye can remain bigger for up to 14 days.

If your child is at school, please tell their teacher about the atropine treatment. Your child may want to hold books closer, and their handwriting may be less neat than usual.

How often will my child need to attend the hospital?

Your child should be seen every 6 to 12 weeks while having atropine occlusion. If you need to reschedule an appointment, please highlight that your child is using atropine drops. We will make sure we see you as soon as possible.

Are there any side effects of atropine?

The eye being treated will be sensitive to light. So, try to avoid your child being in bright sunlight. A sun hat or sunglasses will help protect them.

Other side effects are rare. But if your child becomes hot, irritable and complains of a sore throat or develops any of the following: a rash, headaches, or feeling or being sick, stop using atropine. Seek medical advice immediately.

If your child is seen by another doctor or health professional during the treatment, it's important to let them know that you're using atropine drops.

How do I take extra care with atropine?

Read the patient information leaflet that comes with the eye drops. The drops should be:

- stored at room temperature
- kept out of reach of children

Who can I contact for more information?

St Mary's Hospital

Children's outpatients: Telephone 020 3312 7683 (08.30 – 16.30, Monday to Friday, except public holidays).

Western Eye Hospital

Orthoptic department: Telephone 020 3312 3256 (08.30 – 16.30, Monday to Friday, except public holidays).

Western eye hospital

Emergency department: Telephone 020 3312 3247 (08.00 – 22:00, Monday to Sunday)

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service, and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk