

Western Eye Hospital

What you need to know about your dilating eye drops treatment

Information for patients

Introduction

This leaflet will explain what happens when eye drops are used to dilate (open) the pupils of your eyes.

Why do I need to have these eye drops?

As part of the examination of your eyes your nurse will need to put eye drops into your eyes to make the pupils (black part of the eye) larger.

The drops will relax the focusing power of the eyes, which makes it possible for your doctor or nurse to examine the inside and back of your eye.

How long will it take for the drops to dilate my pupils?

The drops normally take up to 20 minutes to take effect and will blur the vision for up to six hours. You will also be sensitive to bright light.

What do I need to be aware of after having the drops?

Your eye sight should return to normal when the treatment has worn off.

But, if you do feel any of the following:

- redness
- itching
- swelling of the eye lids

Please ask for reassurance with one of the clinical area nurses.

Or call the A&E department at the Western Eye Hospital on: **020 3312 3245/7.**

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 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at pals@imperial.nhs.uk. 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 express your concerns in **writing** to:

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

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.

Wi-fi

We have a free wi-fi service for basic filtered browsing and a premium wi-fi service (requiring payment) at each of our five hospitals. Look for WiFiSPARK_FREE or WiFiSPARK_PREMIUM

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