



Use of Atropine Eye Drops for Occlusion (Treatment of Lazy Eye)

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Contact Information

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The Orthoptic Department
Ophthalmology - Eye Outpatients
Bradford Royal Infirmary
Duckworth Lane
Bradford BD9 6RJ

If there are any concerns or enquires please contact -
the **Orthoptic Department** on 01274 364175
Monday - Friday: 9am- 4.30pm
Fax: 01274 364175

By Textphone

We use the BT Text Relay service for patients who are deaf or have hearing difficulties.

To contact us ring: 18001 01274 365942.

Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine drops can be used as an alternative to wearing an eye patch. The drops blur the vision of the better eye which enables the weaker eye to be used so that vision may improve.

What are the effects of Atropine drops?

Atropine dilates the pupil (makes it larger) and also temporarily stops the eye focusing properly so that the vision is blurred.

How often should I use the eye drops?

Put **ONE** drop of Atropine, every **SATURDAY** and **SUNDAY** into the better eye.

Your child's better eye is _____

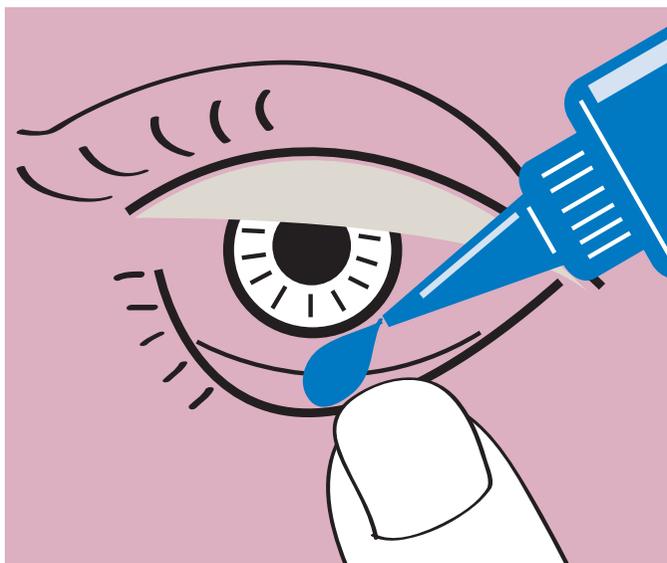
Continue with the drops until you and your child see the orthoptist at your next appointment. All appointments for patients undergoing 'Atropine Occlusion' should be within 4 week intervals.

How long do the effects last?

Atropine will cause blurred vision which can last up to 7 days or more, even when drops are stopped. The pupil may remain dilated for up to 14 days.

How should I instil the drops?

- Wash both your own and your child's hands before and after instilling the drops.
- Gently pull down the lower lid of the better eye.
- Instil one drop of the Atropine into the area between the eyeball and the lower lid.
- Press gently on the inner corner of the eye for 1 minute to avoid the solution draining away into the nose.
- It may be easier to instil the eye drop while your child is asleep.



IT IS IMPORTANT that **ALL** appointments are attended when using atropine drops.

The drops **MUST** be stopped if an appointment is missed.

Are there any side effects?

- It will make the dilated eye sensitive to bright light - wearing a sunhat may help.
- The child may feel a little discomfort when initially used.
- If your child's eyes become red and sore this may be an allergic reaction and you should stop the treatment and seek medical advice.
- General symptoms such as a dry mouth, flushed appearance, dry skin/rash, nausea/vomiting, and constipation may also occur. These symptoms are rare, however if they do occur you should;

Stop the treatment immediately and seek medical advice. Either contact the Orthoptic Dept on 01274 364175 or alternatively contact your GP.

Warning: Atropine is poisonous if taken orally, please store safely.

Further Information

- Do not use Atropine that is past its expiry date.
- Do not use Atropine if the bottle has been opened for 4 weeks.
- Store the Atropine upright in a dry place below 25°C and away from direct sunlight.