



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Atropine Occlusion

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact

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What is an atropine occlusion?

Atropine occlusion is another form of patching using a drug rather than a sticky patch. The treatment works by blurring the vision in your child's good eye, this in turn should encourage the weaker eye to be used and hopefully improve the vision.

What are the effects of atropine?

Atropine has two effects when it is put into the eyes:

- Atropine will dilate the pupil. This means it will make the black part of the eye larger and more open.
- Atropine will stop the eye from focusing properly. This will blur your child's vision close up.

How do I give the atropine eye drops to my child?

The atropine eye drops should be put in your child's 'good eye' as directed by the instructions on the prescription. The drops can be put in whilst your child is asleep if this is preferred. The drops do not sting when they are put in the eye. Make sure you always wash your hands and your child's hands after using the drops to avoid the Atropine being taken internally. Try to put the Atropine drops in your child's eye at the same time each day.

What if I run out of atropine eye drops for my child?

Please contact your GP for a further prescription if you have run out or think you may run out of Atropine eye drops.

What are the important points I need to know?

- Do not use atropine if your child suffers from heart problems or has a high fever.
- As your child may feel dehydrated whilst using the drops, please ensure that your child drinks lots of water to keep hydrated.
- Your child's dilated eye will be sensitive to bright light. Wearing a sun hat may help.
- Your child may feel discomfort when the drop is put in to their eye, however the drops do not sting.
- If your child is at school, please let the Teacher know that you are using these drops and that as a result their vision will be blurred. Your child may benefit from sitting nearer the front of the class and may be slower with written work and reading tasks whilst using these drops.
- Once your child has stopped using the drops, it may take between 7 to 14 days for the pupil (the black part of the eye) to return to its normal size and for their vision to return to normal.

Please remember: Atropine is a drug and your child could develop an allergy to it. Stop using the drops immediately if they develop any of the following symptoms:

- Becomes severely flushed
- Becomes nauseous or is vomiting
- Is irritable
- Becomes dehydrated

As well as stopping the drops, contact your Doctor and notify the Eye Clinic as soon as possible.

For more information on side-effects please read the Patient Information leaflet that comes with the drops.

How do I store the atropine eye drops?

- **Make sure that this medicine is stored out of reach of children**
- Store the eye drops in a cool and dry place
- Do not use the atropine drops beyond the expiry date shown on them
- Do not use the eye drops after they have been opened for four weeks or more
- Only use the drops for the child they have been prescribed for and never use them on another person
- **Warning** Atropine is poisonous if eaten or taken in by mouth

Why do we need to attend follow ups?

As this treatment involves a drug, your child will need to be monitored closely. It is likely that your child will be required to attend the eye clinic every four weeks.

Whatever the age of your child, any treatment must be regularly monitored by your Orthoptist.

If you are unable to attend your appointment it is important that you let the Orthoptic Department know as soon as possible so a new appointment can be arranged.

It is important that you do not continue to use the atropine if you do not have a follow up appointment.

How often should I use the eye drops?

Drop to be put in _____ eye only

How often _____

If you have any questions about your child's treatment, please do not hesitate to ask your Orthoptist.

Contact numbers

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Thank you

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

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Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

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