

Information for Parents/guardians

Atropine Occlusion Treatment for Amblyopia

What is a lazy eye?

A lazy eye, also known as 'Amblyopia', is when the vision in one eye doesn't develop properly in childhood. This means that your child can see less clearly out of one eye and relies more on the other 'good' eye. There are several causes for amblyopia, for example:

- A squint (an inwards or outwards turn in one eye).
- A need for glasses where the lens in one is stronger than the other.
- A droopy eyelid.
- A childhood cataract.

Treating a 'lazy eye'

If glasses are needed, they must be worn all the time. It may be that wearing glasses alone will not be enough to improve the vision in the lazy eye. An eye drop called Atropine Sulphate 1% may be needed to blur the vision in the eye that sees well to encourage your child to use the lazy eye.

What is Atropine Sulphate 1%?

Atropine Sulphate 1% is a drug that makes it difficult for the eye to focus for close distances and makes the black part of the eye (pupil) large.

How does Atropine occlusion work?

A drop of Atropine Sulphate 1% is put into the **good eye** to blur the vision. This makes the weaker eye work harder to encourage the vision to improve.

How do I use it?

Put one drop of Atropine Sulphate 1% into your child's _____ eye,

_____ times per week on the following days

Always wash your hands and your child's hands before and after using the drops.

Gently pull down the lower eyelid with your finger.

Put one drop of Atropine Sulphate 1% into the area between the eyeball and the lower eyelid and then release the eyelid.

Gently press on the corner of the eye for up to one minute. This helps to prevent the drop draining into the nose and being swallowed.

Your child will be seen again in _____ weeks.

I've run out of drops what should I do?

You should contact the orthoptic department on **(0161) 701 4882**, Monday–Saturday, 8.00am – 4.30pm. You can leave a message on the answer machine leaving your name and contact telephone number if there is no answer and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

My child wears glasses: do they still need to wear them when using Atropine Sulphate 1%?

Yes. It is important that your child continues to wear their glasses to give the weaker eye the best chance to improve.

What are the side effects of Atropine Sulphate 1%?

As with most medicines some side effects may occur.

Your child may be more sensitive to light than usual due to the larger pupil letting more light into their eye.

Please read the pharmacy information you will receive with the drops before starting the treatment.

There are reported side effects which are rare. These include:

- Itchy or swollen eyelids
- Red or watery eyes
- Dryness of skin/mouth
- Fever
- Flushing of face
- Restlessness
- Hyperactivity
- Irritability
- Vomiting

If any of the above occurs, stop using the drops immediately and seek advice from your child's GP/Pharmacy/NHS 111 service.

Points to remember

Do not use Atropine Sulphate 1% after the expiry date.

Atropine Sulphate 1% minims (individual dropper) are designed for single use only and should be discarded after each instillation.

Store Atropine Sulphate 1% in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep away from strong sunlight.

KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

The Atropine Sulphate 1% has been prescribed for your child and should not be given to any other person.

Inform your child's school about the use of the drops, and the dilated pupil.

If you miss an appointment phone for another appointment as soon as possible.


Please ensure that any doctor or dentist treating your child is aware that Atropine Sulphate 1% eye drops are being used.

Appointment attendance policy

We are striving to reduce the number of missed appointments. It is vital to your child's treatment that all appointments are attended. If you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact **(0161) 276 5533** option 1 (child ophthalmology appointment) Monday-Friday 8.00 am - 4.00 pm as soon as possible so that an alternative appointment can be arranged.

Please be aware that hospital staff have a duty to discuss with the hospital safeguarding team and other agencies if a child or young person is repeatedly not brought for health appointments or if their health appointments are repeatedly cancelled.

If you require any further information, please contact the orthoptic department on:

 (0161) 701 4882 (Monday - Saturday, 8.00 am - 4.30 pm)

Please leave a message with your name and contact details if there is no answer and someone will call you back

 mft.orthoptic.enquires@nhs.net