

Information for Patients

Atropine Occlusion Treatment for Amblyopia

Why does my child need occlusion?

Occlusion is advised when the vision in one eye is reduced (lazy eye, amblyopia). The eye may be occluded with a patch or atropine drops.

What is atropine?

Atropine 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 is put into your child's good eye to blur the vision. This makes your child's weaker eye work harder to encourage the vision to improve.

How do I use it?

Put one drop of atropine into your child's **Right Eye/Left Eye (please delete)**

_____ 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 of your child's good eye with your finger.

Put one drop of atropine into the area between your child's eyeball and the lower eyelid and then release the eyelid.

Gently press on the corner of your child's eye (next to their nose) 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–Friday, 8.00am – 6.00pm or Saturday 8.30am – 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?

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?

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 after the expiry date.

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

Store atropine in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep away from strong sunlight.

Keep atropine out of the reach of children

The atropine 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, their blurred vision and their dilated pupil.

If you miss an appointment please telephone for another appointment as soon as possible.

Please ensure that any doctor or dentist treating your child is aware that atropine is being used.

Appointment attendance

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 us as soon as possible on: **(0161) 276 5533**, Monday – Friday, between 8.30am – 5.00pm so that an alternative appointment can be arranged. Failure to attend 2 consecutive appointments may mean we need to raise our concerns with the children's safeguarding services or result in your child being discharged and your GP/referrer will be informed.