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Atropine Occlusion Patient Information Leaflet

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Introduction to atropine

Atropine can be used as a form of occlusion therapy (patching) for children with amblyopia (weak eye). Atropine comes in the form of drops or ointment.

The effect of atropine is to dilate the pupil (the black part of the eye) and relax the focussing of the eye therefore temporarily blurring the vision in the good eye.

The vision in the good eye will be blurred when looking at objects close to, forcing your child to use their weaker eye, helping to improve the vision in that eye.

Atropine can be instilled whilst your child is sleeping.

Atropine should not be used if your child suffers from heart problems or has a high fever.

Instructions for use

- The drop/ointment is inserted into the **good eye only**.
- Wash your hands.

- Gently pull down the lower eyelid of the good eye with your finger.
- Ask your child to look up if possible.
- Instil one drop or squeeze a little ointment into the area between the eyeball and the lower eyelid.



- If you think the drop didn't go into the eye, you can repeat the process but do not try more than twice.
- Release the eyelid and ensure you wash your hands after instillation.
- Repeat twice daily for the first 3 days, then from day 8 instil twice weekly to top up until your next appointment.

Effects of atropine

The blurring effect of atropine can last 7 days or more and the pupil may remain dilated for up to 14 days after the last instillation. As your child's pupil will be dilated they will be more sensitive to bright light therefore it will help if they wear sunglasses or a sunhat when outdoors. If your child is at school, please notify their teacher.

Important

Side effects are rare, but may include a hot flushed appearance, a sore red eye, stomach upset, rash, headaches, dry mouth, or nausea. If your child experiences any side effects, stop using the drops/ointment immediately and seek medical advice.

If your child is seen by another healthcare professional you must tell them that your child is using atropine drops/ointment.

**If you have any problems or questions, please contact Leighton Hospital Orthoptic Department.
Direct Line 01270 612437**