

Instructions

Atropine to be instilled to:

Right Eye

Left Eye

For _____ days per week

Named Orthoptist:.....

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact:

The Orthoptic Department 01744 646816

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshall Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

Atropine Eye Drops for treatment of Amblyopia (Lazy eye)

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatkach.

What is Atropine?

Atropine is an eye drop that can be used to treat amblyopia (a “lazy eye”) in children. It is used instead of using an eye patch.

What does the treatment involve?

Atropine eye drops or ointment will be prescribed by the eye doctor. You will usually need to take the prescription to the hospital pharmacy to obtain the Atropine.

You will need to put Atropine into your child’s good eye twice weekly. You will notice that the pupil of that eye will become very large when the drop is in.

You will need to attend the hospital orthoptic clinic every four weeks so that your child’s vision can be monitored. Regular attendance is essential to this treatment being continued.

If your child wears glasses they should continue to use them throughout the treatment.

How does Atropine work?

Atropine relaxes the focussing muscles of the eye, reducing the vision in the good eye. This may be enough to encourage the lazy eye to take over, improving the vision. It tends to be more successful where the vision is only moderately reduced.

How do I use the Atropine?

Wash your hands before and after using the drops. Do not touch your own eyes and encourage your child not to rub their eyes to avoid spreading the drops to the other eye. Drops can be put in whilst your child is sleeping if this is easier.

Are there any side effects?

If your child has a squint you may notice that this swaps over to the eye with the Atropine in, this is normal.

Your child may be dazzled in bright light, in such cases sunglasses or a hat may be useful.

Your child will have reduced vision, particularly for close-up, when the drop is working.

Occasionally children have a reaction to the Atropine drops. If the eye becomes red, or your child appears flushed with a raised temperature you should stop using the drops and see your GP.

How long will the treatment last?

Atropine treatment is usually carried out for an initial period of 3 months. Following this, a review with the doctor is necessary to decide whether to continue. This will depend on whether your child’s vision has improved.

What happens if I don’t use the Atropine?

Amblyopia (lazy eye) does not improve without treatment. There is a possibility that your child’s vision may worsen if left untreated. The alternative to Atropine is to use a patch. Please see the leaflet ‘Patching for lazy eye’ for more information.

Additional information

If your child needs to attend the hospital for another reason, please advise staff that the one dilated pupil is due to using these eye drops.