

Cyclopentolate Eye Drops for Eye Examination

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/formatach.

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What are cyclopentolate eye drops?

Cyclopentolate eye drops are used to enlarge the pupil and temporarily stop the eye from focussing. This allows the doctor or optometrist to examine your child's eyes to check they are healthy and see if glasses are required.

How are the drops put in?

- You will be asked to lie your child back across your lap.
- The orthoptist or healthcare assistant will put one drop into each eye.
- If your child is unable to keep their eyes open the orthoptist or healthcare assistant will hold their eyelids whilst they instil the drops.

What effect will the drops have?

- The drops will take 20-40 minutes to work. Your child may feel a slight sting from the drops as they are put in.
- Brown eyes take longer to dilate; sometimes an additional drop is required.
- Vision will become blurry after a few minutes and remain blurred for around 3-4 hours, especially for near work. Your child may return to school, but teachers should be advised that they may have difficulty reading. Extra care should be taken whilst your child's vision is blurry.
- Some children can become sensitive to bright light whilst the pupils are enlarged. Wearing sunglasses or a sun hat may help to reduce these symptoms
- The pupil may remain enlarged for up to 36 hours. This is temporary and will produce no long term side effects

Are there any risks from the drops?

Reactions such as nausea, skin rash, itching and headaches are very uncommon. If they do occur, they are usually mild.

Occasionally, there may be a slight localised flushing of the face shortly after the drops have been instilled. Very rarely, use of the drops may reveal an underlying, but previously hidden squint (eye turn).

If you are concerned about your child at all whilst you are in the clinic, please speak to the nurse.

If you have any concerns after you have left the clinic, please contact your local GP.

What happens if I choose not to have the drops?

Without the drops it may not be possible to fully examine the eye or obtain an accurate glasses test result for your child.

In some circumstances older children are able to complete a glasses test without eye drops. This relies on your child providing accurate and reliable responses to the questions asked by the optometrist, and can be quite challenging for children. It is not suitable in all cases. If you feel this is preferable for your child please discuss with the orthoptist.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact:

The Orthoptic Department 01744 646816