

Atropine Treatment for Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)

Patient Information

Orthoptic Department



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Benefits of the treatment

The aim of the treatment is to try and improve the vision in your child's lazy eye. Your child has been given atropine eye drops to treat a lazy eye. Atropine is inserted into the good eye only. This enlarges the pupil and blurs the vision encouraging the use of the lazy eye.

If your child wears glasses these may be changed to enhance the effect of the treatment. A new pair of glasses will be prescribed and should be worn full time. The original glasses need to be kept for when atropine treatment is stopped. **Please bring both pairs of glasses with you to every appointment.**

Instructions

1. Wash your hands before and after using the atropine.
2. Insert one drop into the eye, as prescribed, until your next appointment. If you think that the drop missed the eye, it is safe to try again, however, two drops do not work better than one.
3. As the vision improves the use of the atropine may be changed under the instruction of the ophthalmic team.
4. You will be seen regularly, whilst on treatment.

Possible side effects

As with most medicines some side effects may occur:

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

If any of the above occurs, contact your doctor or the Eye unit.

Points to remember

- Store atropine in safe place out of the reach of children.
- Store at normal room temperature.
- Be careful not to get atropine into your own eye as it could blur your vision. Always wash your hands before and after you insert the drops.
- 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 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 is being used.

If you wish to speak to someone by phone, please contact the Orthoptic Department

Wigan Health Centre (Boston House)

Telephone 01942 822310

Outpatient Department, Leigh Infirmary

Telephone 01942 264095

Urgent Referral Clinic, Wigan Health Centre

Telephone 01942 822244

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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