

## Important

This note is for parents of children using Atropine to treat Amblyopia or Lazy Eye.

Do not use Atropine beyond its expiry date

It is vital that your children attend their appointments during their treatment. If they are unable to attend then please call us on 01296 315 988 as soon as possible to arrange another appointment.

It is important to let any Health Professional treating your child know that they are using Atropine drops.

If you are running out of Atropine, then please contact 01296 315 719 (Stoke Mandeville) or 01494 425 480 (High Wycombe) for another prescription.

## How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

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# Atropine Occlusion

Treatment of  
Amblyopia/Lazy eye  
for children

## Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please call PALS on 01296 316042

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

## Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine drops are used for the treatment of Amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye which cannot be improved with glasses alone).

This is an alternative treatment to using a patch.

Atropine blurs the vision of the better eye encouraging the use of the weaker eye and improving the vision.

## How does Atropine work?

Atropine dilates the pupil (the black part of the eye becomes larger). This blurs the vision in the 'good' eye to promote the improvement of vision in the weaker eye.

## How often do I put the drops in?

One drop of Atropine should be inserted into the (\_\_\_\_\_) eye every Saturday and Sunday, unless advised otherwise.

Glasses must still be worn full time during Atropine treatment.

## How to instill the drops

1. Always wash your hands before instilling the drops.
2. Gently pull down the lower lid of the better eye.
3. Insert one drop of the atropine between the eye ball and lower lid and release the lid.
4. Ensure you wash your hands after instillation.
5. If your child gets very distressed it may be easier to instill the drops while your child is asleep.

## How long do the effects of Atropine last for?

Blurred vision can last up to 7 days but the pupil may remain dilated for up to 14 days from the last dose.

If your child is at school, then please inform their teacher about the Atropine treatment.

## Side effects of Atropine

As your child's pupil will be dilated they will be slightly more sensitive to bright light, therefore a sunhat or sunglasses may help when outdoors.

Your child may feel some discomfort when the drop is instilled.

**If your child develops any of the following symptoms which are rare: a rash, itchy eyes, fever, headaches, nausea/vomiting or red sore eyes then stop using atropine and seek medical advice.**

*Eye Casualty 01296 315939  
(or contact your GP)*

## How to store Atropine safely

Keep out of reach of children and at room temperature