

**Use of Atropine Eye  
Drops for Occlusion**  
*(Treatment of Lazy Eye)*

## Why has my child been prescribed Atropine?

Atropine eye drops are used to improve the vision in an eye with poor sight. This is sometimes known as “lazy eye”. The drops blur the vision of the better eye which enables the weaker eye to be used so that vision may improve.

## What are the effects of Atropine drops?

Atropine dilates the pupil (makes it larger) and also stops the eye focusing properly so that the vision is blurred.

## How often should I use the eye drops?

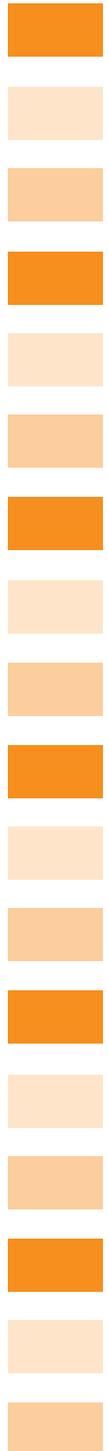
Put **ONE** drop of Atropine, every **SATURDAY** and **SUNDAY** into the better eye.

**Your child’s better eye is \_\_\_\_\_  
therefore please put one drop of Atropine into this eye.**

Continue with the drops until you and your child see the orthoptist at their next appointment.

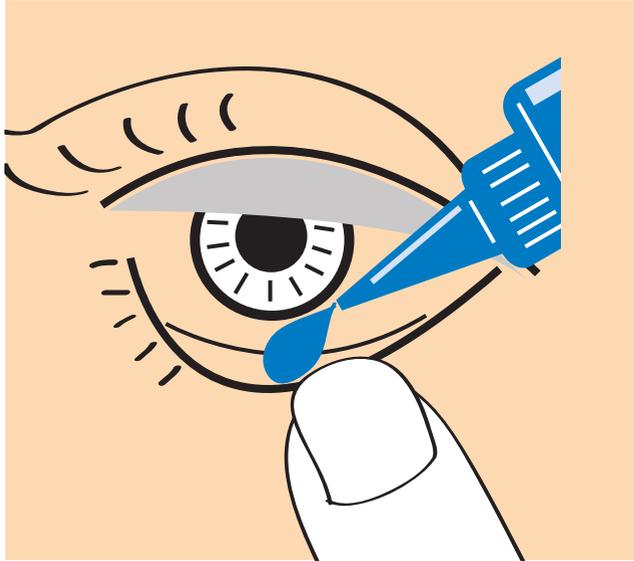
## How long do the effects last?

Atropine will cause blurred vision which can last up to 7 days or more, even when drops are stopped. The pupil may remain dilated for up to 14 days.



## How should I put the drops in?

- Wash both your own and your child's hands before and after putting the drops in.
- Gently pull down the lower lid of the better eye.
- Put one drop of the Atropine into the area between the eyeball and the lower lid.
- Press gently on the inner corner of the eye for 1 minute to avoid the solution draining away into the nose.
- It may be easier to put the eye drop in while your child is asleep.



**IT IS IMPORTANT** that **ALL** appointments are attended when using atropine drops.

The drops **MUST** be stopped if an appointment is missed.

## Are there any side effects?

- It will make the dilated eye sensitive to bright light - wearing a sunhat may help.
- The child may feel a little discomfort when initially used.
- If your child's eyes become red and sore this may be an allergic reaction and you should stop the treatment and seek medical advice.
- General symptoms such as a dry mouth, flushed appearance, dry skin/rash, nausea/vomiting, and constipation may also occur. These symptoms are rare, however if they do occur you should;

### **Stop the treatment immediately**

**Seek medical advice. Either contact the Orthoptic Dept on 01274 364175 or alternatively contact your GP.**

## Further Information

- **Warning:** Atropine is poisonous if taken orally, please store safely.
- Do not use Atropine that is past its expiry date.
- Do not use Atropine if the bottle has been opened for 4 weeks.
- Store the Atropine upright in a dry place below 25°C and away from direct sunlight.



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## Contact Information



Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



The Orthoptic Department



Eye Outpatients Department



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If there are any concerns or enquires please contact -  
the **Orthoptic Department** on 01274 364175



Monday - Friday: 9am- 4.30pm



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