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Atropine Treatment for Amblyopia

A drop called atropine is being used to treat your child's amblyopia. Atropine blurs near vision in the better-seeing eye. This encourages your child to use the eye with poor vision, improving vision in the "lazy eye" over time.

How often do I use the drops?

Use 1 drop of atropine in the: _____ every morning

Right eye Left eye _____ every other morning

_____ time(s) per week

How do I put the drops in? Lie your child down and have them look up at the ceiling. Hold the eye lids apart and place ONE drop anywhere between the lids. In some children it is necessary for one adult to hold the child while the other gives the drop. If your child is frightened, try giving the drop before they wake up. Immediately after giving the drop, apply pressure to the inside corner of the eyelids to plug the tear drainage duct. Hold for 30 seconds. This will help decrease the side effects described below. Eventually a routine will be established, and it will get easier to put the drops in. **REMEMBER; wash your hands before and after giving the drops.**

Do the drops hurt? No. Unlike other types of eye drops, atropine drops usually do not sting.

How do I store the drops? They may be kept at room temperature. The drops **MUST** be kept out of the reach of children and pets. If a child ingests this drug they can experience serious side effects. Call 911 or your local emergency room *immediately*.

What are the side effects? Side affects are uncommon. A child could develop redness and swelling around the eye, flushing of the face, very fast heart beat, or fever. If any of these occur, stop the drops immediately and contact us at 319-356-2859 or your local emergency room.

Should my child wear sunglasses? Outdoors on a sunny day, your child will be more comfortable wearing sunglasses. If they will not wear sunglasses, try having them wear a hat that has a brim to shade the eyes.

How can my child function at school with the good eye blurred? The atropine blurs the good eye. Your child should be allowed to hold reading material as close as they wish. If your child is having difficulty seeing the board, ask the teacher to move them up front.

How long will I need to use atropine? Treatment with atropine drops may continue for months or even years, depending on the age of the child and the severity of the amblyopia.

What should I do the day of the appointment? We recommend that the drop not be given on the day of the appointment.

If you have any other questions about atropine treatment for amblyopia, please do not hesitate to call.