

Cyclopentolate Eye Drops

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

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Tel: 01904 726750

You have been given Cyclopentolate eye drops to put in your child's eyes before they are tested for glasses by our Optometrists.

Why do we use dilating drops?

Unfortunately children are not able to do the same sort of test for glasses as an adult. With adults and older children we can undertake a more subjective test, which means they can tell us what looks better. Younger children can not do this reliably, so by using dilating drops this allows us to do a very accurate glasses check to determine, if your child needs glasses and what strength they need.

What do the drops do?

The drops dilate the pupils and relax the focussing muscles of the eye, so your child's vision will be blurred and you will notice that the black part of the eye (pupil) looks big.

What are the side effects?

Your child's vision will be blurred and they will be more sensitive to bright light; it is advisable to bring a hat or a pair of sunglasses for them to wear if it is a sunny day.

Very occasionally these drops can cause flushing of the skin in some children.

How do I put the drops in?

There are many ways to put the drops in; the easiest may be to allow gravity to assist.

With your child lying down and looking to the ceiling allow a single drop to 'fall' into each eye. As long as it lands somewhere between the lids the drop will work.

Remember to wash your hands before and after putting the drops in.

Do the drops sting?

Yes they do, but this wears off very quickly.

How long do the effects of the drops last?

The drops take approximately 30 minutes to work, this can be longer in people with dark brown eyes, and sometimes two lots of drops may be needed.

They take between four to 12 hours to wear off. Occasionally the effects may last longer.

Can my child go to school with the drops in?

Yes they can but you will need to inform the teacher that they have had drops in so their vision will be blurred.

What if I am unable to put the drops in?

Don't worry if you can't put the drops in or don't want to, inform the nurse when you arrive in clinic and they will do it for you.

As with all medicines please keep the drops somewhere safe and out of harms way

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Patricia McCready, Eye Clinic, telephone 01904 726750 or email patricia.mccready@york.nhs.uk

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

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