

Ophthalmology Department

Cyclopentolate Eye Drops Information for Parents and Carers

Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information on the cyclopentolate eye drops used on your child today.

What do the eye drops do?

- The drops are used with young children when the test for glasses and the examination of the back of the eye is carried out.
- The drops are used to dilate the pupils and relax the focusing of the eyes to enable an accurate test to be performed.
- Your child's vision will become blurred, because the drops relax the focussing of the eye.
- Your child's pupils will increase in size about 20-30 minutes after the drops are instilled. Because of this, your child will be sensitive to sunlight, so it is advisable to give your child a peaked cap or sunglasses to wear when outside if it is a sunny day.

How long do the effects of the eye drops last?

Recovery from the effects of the drops usually takes six - eight hours, but this can vary. In some children the pupils may take up to 24 to 36 hours to return to normal.

Are there any risks?

It is advisable to watch your child whilst in clinic after the drops were instilled. Reactions such as nausea, skin rash, itching, and headaches are very uncommon. If they do occur, they are usually mild. Occasionally, there may be a slight localized flushing of the face shortly after the drops have been instilled. Very rarely, use of the drops may reveal an underlying, but previously hidden squint (eye turn).

What to do if you have any concerns

If you are concerned about your child at all whilst you are in the clinic, please speak to the nurse. If you have any concerns after you have left the clinic, please contact your local GP.

Who you should tell that your child has had the eye drops

If your child has to see a doctor immediately after this appointment, make sure you tell them your child has recently had dilating eye drops.

Going back to school

Your child can return to school after the eye test, but may not be able to see detailed close work.

For further information

If you have any queries or need further information please telephone the Ophthalmology Department on: 0151 252 5215

This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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