

Patient information factsheet

Cyclopentolate eye drops for children

We have given you this factsheet because your child has an appointment for a sight test and will be given cyclopentolate eye drops as part of this test. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you or your child has any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

It is important that you let the orthoptist, doctor or optometrist (optician) performing the sight test know if your child is allergic to any medication, or if they have high blood pressure, a heart condition or seizures. Cyclopentolate eye drops may not be suitable for them.

What are cyclopentolate eye drops?

Cyclopentolate eye drops temporarily dilate (widen) the pupils and stop the eyes from changing focus. This will help your child's eye doctor or optometrist to examine your child's eyes and check if they need glasses, or a change to the glasses they currently wear.

How long do the effects last?

The eye drops usually take 20 to 40 minutes to work. The eye drops vary in their effect and can last up to 36 hours.

If your child has brown eyes

The eye drops may take slightly longer to work because of your child's darker eye pigmentation. If this is the case, we may give them two drops of cyclopentolate, or we may use a second eye drop called phenylephrine (2.5% strength) to help dilate their pupils.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects commonly seen in practice include:

- a stinging sensation when the drops are put in (this usually wears off after a couple of minutes)
- blurred vision (especially for close work such as reading)
- a sensitivity to bright light while the pupils are large (wearing a hat or sunglasses may help)

Side effects rarely seen in practice include:

- red, watery eyes
- hot flushes for the first hour after the drops are put in
- a rapid heartbeat
- a dry mouth or dry skin
- skin rashes
- a high temperature (38°C or above)
- difficulty passing urine (weeing)
- restlessness, excitement or irritability
- gastrointestinal upset (for example, diarrhoea or vomiting)

As with all medicines, there is a very small risk of having a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

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Some additional side effects have been reported. For a full list of the potential side effects, please visit: www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4258/pil#about-medicine

If you have any concerns about your child while you're in the eye clinic, please let a member of staff know.

If you have any concerns about your child after leaving the eye clinic, please contact the orthoptic department or eye emergency department using the telephone numbers below.

In the very unlikely event that a severe side effect occurs, please seek urgent medical help. Call **999** for an ambulance or take your child to your nearest emergency department.

If your child needs to see a doctor while their pupils are still large, for example if they had an accident, you should let the doctor know that they have had dilating eye drops.

Can my child return to school or nursery today?

Your child can go back to school or nursery after having eye drops, but they will temporarily have blurred vision and be sensitive to light. Please make sure that your child's teacher or play leader knows about the eye drops, so they are able to provide additional support and supervision if needed. Each child will react differently, but it is best to avoid sports until the blurred vision has worn off.

Contact us

Orthoptic department

Telephone: **023 8120 4789** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm)

Eye emergency department

Telephone: **023 8120 6592** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 7.30pm, weekends and bank holidays, 8am to 6pm)

Useful links

www.squintclinic.com

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**