

Orthoptics

Pupil-dilating eye drops used in the children's eye clinic

It may be necessary to use dilating eye drops when your child attends the Paediatric Ophthalmology clinic or a refraction appointment with the optometrist. This depends on the age of your child and the condition for which they are being examined.

Some names of the eye drops are:

- Cyclopentolate
- Tropicamide
- Phenylephrine

The eye drops relax the muscle in the eye which controls the size of the pupil. This allows the eye drops to dilate the pupil. Some eye drops also relax the focusing muscles of the eye. This means most children will also experience blurred vision for a short time.

Why are eye drops used?

The eye drops will help the clinician to examine the back of the eye, and/or to take photos of the eye. The eye drops help the optometrist to test whether your child needs glasses

Some eye drops are used after eye surgery or for treating different conditions. This will be explained to you where this is needed.



Patient Information

Cautions

Tell the orthoptist / optometrist / nurse / doctor if your child:

- is allergic to any medication.
- has had a severe reaction to any drops previously.
- has any allergies to eye drops.
- has high blood pressure or a heart condition.

Consideration will be given to the safety of the use of eye drops in all children, but particularly in some conditions such as Down's syndrome.

Any contact lenses will need to be removed before putting eye drops in.

How long do the effects of eye drops last?

The pupil may be dilated for up to 24 hours, and near vision may be blurred for up to 6 hours.

What are the main side effects of eye drops?

Eye drops can cause temporary stinging and blurred vision.

Occasionally, the drops can cause a sore eye or sore eyelids.

Very rarely, the drops can cause a rapid heartbeat, dry mouth, and/or high temperature.

Your child's eyes may be more sensitive to light. You may want to bring sunglasses or a wide brimmed hat for your child if you have them.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 0247 696 6520 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Patient Information

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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