



Ophthalmology Department

## Cyclopentolate Hydrochloride Eye Drops

Information for Parents and Carers

### Introduction

This leaflet is to provide you with information about Cyclopentolate eye drops.



### What do the eye drops do?

- The drops are used in clinic when we need to assess the health of your child's eye (fundus check) and when a refraction (need for glasses) test is to be performed.
- Cyclopentolate drops are used to dilate the pupils and relax the focusing of the eyes to enable an accurate test to be performed. Different strengths of cyclopentolate are available (0.5% or 1%). The strength used will be dependant upon your child's age and upon any health issues that your child may have.
- Your child's vision will become blurred, this is 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 hat / 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 to 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 monitor your child whilst in clinic, after the drops are instilled.

Occasionally, there may be a slight localized flushing of the face shortly after the drops have been instilled.

Reactions such as nausea, skin rash, itching, and headaches are very uncommon. If they do occur, they are usually mild. Whilst you are in clinic you can discuss any concerns with the nurse or doctor.

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 Ophthalmology or your child's 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 following eye drops but may have difficulty focussing on small detailed close work. It is advisable to inform your child's teacher.

## For further information

If you have any queries or need further information please telephone  
**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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