



Guidelines for Atropine Instructions

Despite information on the contrary in some package inserts, atropine 1% is used in special situations that will require full cycloplegia (full relaxation of focusing muscles of the eye). When you receive these instructions, your child probably has one of the following reasons:

1. Accommodative esotropia
2. Spasm of accommodation
3. Latent hyperopia
4. Variable response to intermediate-acting cycloplegic agents used in the clinic
5. Certain postoperative situations
6. Desire to dissociate an undesirable experience in the clinic associated with eyedrops
7. Others _____

Atropine dilates the pupils (makes them larger, typically 1-2 weeks) and prevents focusing for near for a variable period (typically 3-5 days). This does not handicap your child and enables your eyeMD to precisely determine the strength of the glasses required.

1. Apply atropine 1% in the following manner: _____
Start date: _____
End date: _____
Date of Visit: _____
2. If necessary, wait till your child is in deep sleep. To check this, gently stroke the eyelashes. If the child hardly moves, he/she is ready. Gently proceed to put eyedrops in your child's eyes.
3. To apply the eyedrops, you can either lift the upper lid gently or pull the lower lid downward with a finger against the cheek to open the lids. Apply only 1 drop each application to prevent excessive absorption. In addition, occlude the pathway from the eyes to the nose by applying some finger pressure in the inner aspect of the lid towards the nose.
4. The second dose can be applied before the child wakes up in the morning. The third dose if the child takes a nap in the morning or afternoon. If the child develops any of the adverse reactions (see #5), skip the next dose. Resume the following day with special attention to precautions. If symptoms persist, call us.
5. The signs of adverse (not ALLERGIC but a sign of excessive instillation / absorption) reactions to atropine are any one of the following:
 - Flushing of the face: give plenty of fluids especially water
 - Rash: give plenty of fluids especially water
 - Elevated temperature: give paracetamol in your child's usual fever dosage (Temp. > 38°)
 - Thirst: give plenty of fluids especially water
 - Agitation or improper behavior: give plenty of fluids especially water

IF ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS OCCUR, DO NOT GIVE THE NEXT DOSE UNLESS SYMPTOMS ARE GONE. If Redness or irritation of the eyes occur, or if symptoms persist, please call your doctor or this office immediately.

6. After instilling the medication in your child's eyes, be sure to wash your hands to avoid getting the medication in your own eyes.

KEEP ATROPINE OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH.

ATROPINE IS TOXIC IF USED EXCESSIVELY.

NEVER USE THIS DRUG FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN THE ONE FOR WHICH IT WAS PRESCRIBED.

ATROPINE WILL NOT CURE PINK EYE OR ANY OTHER INFECTION.