

Giving your child Atropine dilating eye drops before an eye exam



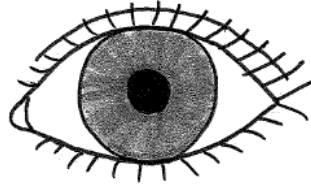
Atropine dilating eye drops help the doctor see inside your child's eyes.

Information for parents
from the 3V2 Eye Clinic

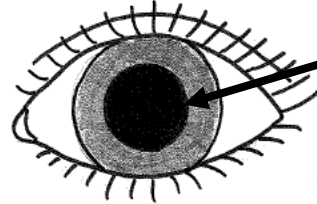
What are atropine dilating eye drops?

These eye drops contain atropine 1%, a medication that opens (dilates) the black centre of the eye (pupil).

Before drops



After drops



Dilated pupil

Why does my child need these drops?

We will dilate the pupils of your child's eyes to:

- ✓ examine the back of the eye (retina), and
- ✓ take accurate measurements to see if the eye is farsighted or nearsighted.

How do I put in the drops?

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. With your child lying down, have your child look up and pull the lower eyelid down, to make a pouch.
3. Put one drop in the pouch, inside the lower eyelid. Wipe away any excess drop with a tissue.

If the drop misses the pouch area, wipe it off with a tissue and put in another drop.

4. Wash your hands after giving the drops.

If atropine stays on your hands and you rub your eyes, it could dilate your eyes.

The eye clinic staff can give you more tips on putting in the drops.

When should I give the atropine drops to my child?

You should put 1 drop in each of your child's eyes the night before your appointment.

How long does it take for the drops to work?

Usually atropine drops take about 1 hour to work. The exact time varies for each child.

Blue eyes are more sensitive to the medication and dilate faster than brown eyes. Brown eyes can take longer to dilate.

Some pupils don't dilate easily. Atropine drops may help dark brown eyes dilate better than other types of dilating drops.

How will the drops affect my child's vision?

Your child can see even with drops in his or her eyes. However, the vision can be blurry for up to 24 hours. The drops mainly affect near vision, not distance vision.

The drops may make your child's eyes more sensitive to light. This may last up to 7 days. If your child is sensitive to light, he or she can wear sunglasses or a hat when outdoors.

Are these drops safe?

Yes, the drops are very safe. Atropine eye drops are used often in eye clinics across the country.

Atropine drops may cause some brief stinging when first applied, but they do not hurt the coloured part of the eye (iris).

The most common side effects are blurred vision and sensitivity to light.

Other side effects, though rare, may include flushing of the face, a change in heart rate, agitation or confusion. Allergic reactions, such as swelling of the eye lids or a rash, are very rare.

Can my child go to school after having dilating drops?

Yes, your child can go to school. Tell the teacher that your child's vision will be blurry, as this will affect activities such as reading.

**If you have questions
or concerns, please call
the Eye Clinic at
905-521-2100, ext 72400.**

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