

Giving your child Cyclopentolate dilating eye drops before an eye exam



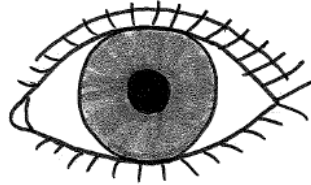
Cyclopentolate dilating eye drops help the doctor see inside your child's eyes.

Information for parents
from the 3V2 Eye Clinic

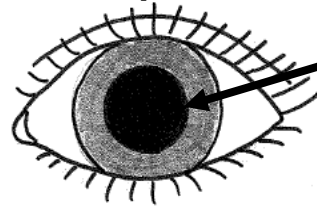
What are cyclopentolate dilating eye drops?

These eye drops contain cyclopentolate 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 cyclopentolate 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 cyclopentolate drops to my child?

Your child will need 2 doses of cyclopentolate drops:

- For the first dose, put 1 drop in each eye – after your child wakes on the morning of your appointment.
- For the second dose, put 1 drop in each eye, just before you leave home to come to your appointment.

How long does it take for the drops to work?

Usually cyclopentolate drops take about 30 minutes 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 over an hour to dilate.

Some pupils don't dilate easily.

How will the drops affect my child's vision?

Your child can see even with drops in his or her eyes. However, the vision will be blurry for a few 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 48 hours. 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. Cyclopentolate eye drops are used often in eye clinics across the country.

Cyclopentolate 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. Allergic reactions, such as swelling of the eye lids or a rash, are very rare.

Can my child go to school after having cyclopentolate 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.**

Hogarth Family and Pioneer Energy Ophthalmology Centre
McMaster University Medical Centre
1200 Main Street West
Hamilton ON