

## INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

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# Atropine occlusion (treatment for a lazy eye)

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This leaflet explains Atropine occlusion treatment and how it works. It also tells you what to expect during the treatment.

### What is it?

This treatment is used to try to improve the vision of your child's lazy (amblyopic) eye. This is often the choice of treatment if conventional patching treatment has been unsuccessful. It can also be used if your child has had difficulty wearing a patch. Patching the good eye stimulates visual development of the weak eye. Other patient information is available to tell you about patching.

Blurring the 'good' eye for near vision with Atropine drops may be enough to improve the vision of the weak eye. It is not as effective as the patch as it blurs, not blocks, the vision of the good eye.

### How does it work?

Atropine has the effect of enlarging the pupil and paralysing the focusing muscles of the eye.

### How do we use the Atropine?

Atropine must be put into your child's right eye/left eye **once a day** to maintain the blurring effect.

### How do I know the Atropine has been put in correctly?

You will notice the pupil of your child's eye enlarge.

During the treatment you may notice the eye with the Atropine in is turning inwards. This indicates the 'lazy' eye is being used and should not give cause for alarm.

### How often will my child be seen?

Your child will be seen by the orthoptist after four weeks. When the treatment is stopped the pupil may remain dilated for 10-14 days before returning to normal.

### How do I use Atropine?

Wash your hands before and after using Atropine, and make sure your child avoids rubbing the eyes as this may spread the drops into the other eye.

Very occasionally some children may be allergic to the drops or ointment. If the eye becomes red, or your child appears flushed with a raised temperature, stop using it and see your doctor.

## What happens if the treatment is not carried out?

If this treatment or its alternatives are not carried out, the vision in the lazy eye will not improve and may possibly get worse.

## Contact details

If you have any queries about your child's treatment please contact the Orthoptic Department:

- **Email:** [Sfh-tr.orthoptics@nhs.net](mailto:Sfh-tr.orthoptics@nhs.net)
- **Urgent orthoptic queries:**
  - Telephone: 07768615247, Monday to Wednesday, 8am-4pm
  - Telephone: 07825866704, Thursday to Friday, 8am-4pm
- **For appointment booking/cancellation:**
  - Telephone: 01623 672383

## Further sources of information

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)

Our Website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

BIOS Website: [www.orthoptics.org.uk](http://www.orthoptics.org.uk)

## Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net).

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them.

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email [sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net) or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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