

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Atropine occlusion (treatment for a lazy eye)

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 your child's "lazy" eye will not improve and may possibly get worse.

Contact details

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

King's Mill Hospital

01623 622515, extension 3365 or 6655
Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm.

Newark Hospital

01636 681681.

Useful contact

www.orthoptics.org.uk

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.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.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you need this information in a different language or format, please contact the PET (as above).

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 or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL3260(2)
Created: November 2015 / Revised: June 2017 /
Review Date: June 2019