

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Eye drops

Lidocaine 4% and fluorescein 0.25%

Why are these drops used?

Lidocaine and fluorescein (also known as lignocaine and fluorescein) eye drops are used before the eyecare professional examines the eyes on the slit lamp. These are used for a few different investigative tests:

- If you have suffered from any trauma to your eye(s) then these drops help identify the injury.
- To identify tear drainage (nasolacrimal duct) problems with the eye(s).
- To measure the eye pressure using Goldmann tonometry.

What do the drops do?

If you have suffered eye trauma

Lidocaine is a topical anaesthetic that numbs your eye(s) from discomfort during the procedure. Fluorescein dyes the eye(s) to help identify damage to the outer surface layer of your eye for the eyecare professional to assess and diagnose this.

The effects are temporary and on average last 30-60 minutes. During this time, avoid touching your eye as further damage could be made. In normal light, your eye will appear yellow when exposed to bright blue light during the slit lamp examination.

Tear drainage

The most common test this is used for is suspected nasolacrimal duct obstruction (blocked tear duct). This is called the Dye Disappearance test. The fluorescein dye assists the healthcare professional in diagnosing nasolacrimal duct anomalies.

Eye pressure

These drops are used to numb the surface of the eye during Goldmann Tonometry. This is when a probe that is attached to the slit lamp is put onto the front surface of the eye called the cornea. A blue light is shone onto the eye which reacts with the fluorescein dye to allow the eye health professional measure the eye pressure.

Who is allowed to receive these drops?

People of all ages are allowed lidocaine and fluorescein.

Who should avoid these drops?

If you are allergic to lidocaine and fluorescein or any local anaesthetic, these eye drops will not be used. Caution should be taken if you are pregnant and/or breast feeding.

What are the risks?

An allergic reaction is rare. A reported 1 in 10,000 people experience the following symptoms:

- Red eye
- Swelling and a rash around the eye
- An anaphylactic reaction (shortness of breath, rash and hives).

Please let the health professional know if you experience any of those symptoms.

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 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.

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