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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Information for Patients Instructions for the use of Atropine for the Refraction of Children

The Orthoptic Department

Your child needs a glasses test and a detailed examination of the back of the eye...

To enable the Ophthalmologist/ Optometrist to do this it is necessary to put Atropine drops into your child's eyes. The Atropine will dilate the pupils and prevent focussing. The drops need to be put in twice a day for three days prior to your child's appointment.

Why does my child need Atropine drops?

Possible reasons Atropine has been prescribed for your child: -

- The pupils did not dilate enough with Cyclopentolate drops which are normally used.
- Your child may have an allergy to the other types of drops used.

Are there any side effects?

- The pupil can stay enlarged for up to 2 weeks. The focussing gradually returns within 3 days.
- Whilst the pupil is dilated, your child will not like bright light.
- Rarely an allergic reaction can occur. This can result in particularly red eyes, dry or flushed skin. **If this happens stop using the drops and contact the Eye Clinic (01633 238856) or your GP.**

Important!

If your child needs any other medical treatment, please ensure that your Doctor/Dentist is aware that Atropine is being used.

Instructions for putting drops in children's eyes: -

- Store Atropine drops at room temperature and out of the reach of children.
- Wash your hands before and after putting in the drops.
- With your child lying down put one drop of Atropine in each eye.
- Drops should be put in your child's eyes twice a day (morning and evening) for three days prior to the appointment with the Ophthalmologist/ Optometrist but not on the day of the appointment.
- Use only on the person for whom they are prescribed.
- Once open do not re-use.
- Dispose of remaining drops and packaging after use.

