

## Contact details

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## Atropine occlusion



Atropine eye drops are sometimes used instead of patches to improve a lazy eye.

## Amblyopia

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You have been given this leaflet as your child has amblyopia.

Amblyopia (or 'lazy eye') means that visual stimulation either fails to transmit or is poorly transmitted through the optic nerve to the brain for a continuous period of time. This can be caused by a turn in the eye as the brain 'turns off' the visual processing of one eye, to prevent double-vision, and therefore the vision in this eye is not able to develop properly.

Amblyopia can also be caused by a difference in glasses prescription between the two eyes. One eye needs a stronger lens therefore less clear visual image into this eye can result in the affected eye becoming amblyopic.

Atropine or patching can be offered for the treatment of amblyopia.

## Atropine occlusion

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Atropine drops can be used to improve the sight in the amblyopic eye. The drops will enlarge the pupil of the good eye and blur the vision. This will hopefully encourage the lazy eye to work and improve the sight.

If the atropine is not blurring the vision in the good eye enough, your child may have their glasses altered in order to further penalise the vision in this eye and encourage the lazy eye to work.

Please instil 1 drop of 1% Atropine Sulphate in the \_\_\_\_\_ eye **twice a week** (Saturday and Wednesday).

Your child will be reviewed every **four weeks** following commencement of Atropine. It is very important your child attends every 4 weeks to ensure there is no risk of the eye with the dilated pupil becoming amblyopic.

**Atropine is a muscle relaxant and is poisonous if eaten, therefore care must be taken with storage. Keep it secure and out of reach**

Your child will be given a red wrist band which must be worn when your child is not in the presence of someone who is aware of his/her atropine treatment. This is an alert bracelet to inform other health professionals of why the pupil on one side is enlarged.

If you find your child requires more atropine wristbands, we can send some in the post if requested by phone.

If you have any problems instilling the drops, or have any questions, please call the Orthoptic department.

Side effects are rare but if your child does experience any side effects such as redness or swelling around the eye, fever and/or sickness, please stop the treatment and contact the Orthoptic department.