

## **Anti-allergy eye drops**

Examples: Emadine® (Emedastine), Alomide® (Lodoxamide), Rapitol® (Nedocromil), Opatanol® (Olopatadine), Opticrom® / Cromolux® (Sodium Cromoglycate), Otrivine-Antistine® (Xylometazoline/Antazoline)

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### **How do anti-allergy drops work?**

An allergy in the eye can be caused by several things such as pollen, pet hairs or dust. This can result in itching, swelling, watering and redness of the eyes. Anti-allergy eye drops help to prevent and control these symptoms. It might take a few days before your child feels better.

### **What should I tell the pharmacist or doctor?**

Tell the pharmacist or doctor if your child is allergic to any antibiotic or other medication.

### **How to give eye drops/ointment**

Before giving either drops or ointment, it is important to wash and dry your hands.

**Eye drops:** You only need to place one drop in each eye. If you need to give more than one type of eye drop, leave at least five minutes between applying each type of medicine.

**Eye ointment:** Pull down the lower lid and squeeze about 1/2 a centimetre (1/4 of an inch) of ointment into each eye. You need to take care not to touch the eye with the end of the tube.

**Contact lenses:** should be removed before putting in eye drops. Wait 15 minutes before putting the contact lenses back in the eye. Check with the pharmacist that the eye drops or ointment are safe to use with contact lenses.

### **How often should I give these drops?**

These drops can be used two to four times a day, depending on the type of drop and how bad the allergy is. The pharmacist or doctor will tell you how frequently.

Some of these drops help to prevent the allergy returning, so if your doctor has asked you to continue the drops even if the eyes seem better, please follow your doctor's advice and do not stop the drops. Remind your child not to rub their eyes, as rubbing can make the allergy worse.

### **What are the main side effects?**

Eye drops can cause mild stinging, blurred sight, or a funny taste in the mouth, just after putting them in. Occasionally the drops can cause an allergic reaction, with redness, swelling and irritation of the eye or eyelids.

If your child experiences symptoms that you think could be due to the drops, speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

### **How do you store these drops?**

Anti-allergy drops can usually be stored at room temperature. They should be thrown away four weeks after you open them. Some anti-allergy drops need to be stored in a fridge and some need to be thrown away after one week. Check with your pharmacist when you need to discard the medication.

Do not use medicines after the expiry date written on the packaging.

### **Need more information?**

Please refer to the packaging and product leaflet for further information or contact the pharmacy department on 020 7566 2362

**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

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**Ph: 020 7253 3411 [www.moorfields.nhs.uk](http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk)**

**Moorfields Direct Telephone Helpline**

**Phone: 020 7566 2345**

**Monday to Friday 09.00 to 16.30 for further information and advice.**