

About the drops

What does Cyclopentolate do?

Cyclopentolate has two effects when instilled in the eyes:

- **Dilates the pupil** (makes the black dot in the middle of the eye larger).
- **Stops the eye from focusing properly**, which blurs the child's near (or close up) vision.

Why are the drops required?

It is necessary to enlarge the pupils to allow the eye care practitioner to carry out an accurate eye examination. This includes checking to see if glasses are needed and that the eyes are healthy.

How are the drops put in?

The orthoptist will put the drops into your child's eyes at the clinic.

The orthoptist will gently pull down the lower eyelid and put the drop into the space between the lid and the eye. They will take at least 20 minutes to work, and if your child has dark eyes a second drop may be needed.

How will I know the drops have worked?

The pupil (black central part of the eye) will be enlarged. While the pupil is enlarged, more light will enter the eye which may cause some discomfort in bright light or sunshine. If sunny, a hat or sunglasses will help this.

Close work/reading will be difficult and blurred as the eye will not be able to focus.

Side effects

Are there any side effects?

Your child may be more sensitive to light therefore may want to avoid bright sun light or wear a cap/sunglasses.

There may be a temporary stinging when the drops are instilled.

Blurred vision may last for up to 4-6 hours and the dilated pupils may last for up to 24 hours.

Rare side effects include an increase in the pressure of the eye and allergic reactions. If there are any concerns, please contact the orthoptic dept.



What is involved in the test?

Your child will not be expected to say which lenses are better or worse and will only be expected to look at various coloured lights. This is the part of the test that the optometrist/ophthalmologist will carry out and they will tell you at the time whether any glasses are required.

The total time for this visit may take up to 2 hours.

Contact details

CONTACT

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PATIENT INFORMATION

Cyclopentolate 1% Eye Drops

Cyclopentolate 1%
Eye drops



Orthoptic Department
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