

## Atropine drops – for excess salivation

### Why has my child been prescribed atropine drops?

Atropine drops can be used to reduce saliva (spit) production (sometimes called drooling) which can reduce noisy breathing. This may be prescribed after trying other medicines that have not helped reduce the saliva production.

### What is Atropine drops?

Atropine sulfate 1% (10mg/ml) eye drops are usually used to treat eye conditions; they can also be given under the tongue (sublingually) where it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and reduces the amount of saliva production.

**Ignore the printing on the Atropine box and container referring to use as eye drops.**

**NB: Always follow the dose indicated on the label or advised by a healthcare professional.**

This is an unlicensed route of administration, this means it is being used in a way not covered by the UK licence for drugs. This does not mean it is unsafe to use this medicine in this way. There is experience of using Atropine eye drops for excess salivation.

### How does Atropine drops work?

Atropine drops decrease the amount of saliva produced from the salivary glands. Atropine drops will reduce saliva production within 30 to 90 mins and lasts for 4-6 hours, so repeated doses may be required as prescribed.

### Are there any precautions with Atropine?

Atropine drops should not be prescribed for those patients with glaucoma or with heart disorders.

Atropine drops should be used with caution in other circumstances. Please tell your health care team if your child has any of the following conditions:

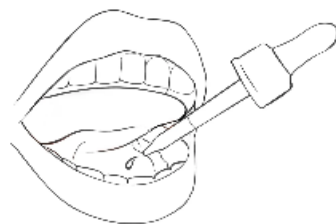
- Gastrointestinal conditions or obstruction or suffers from liver or kidney problems.

### Please DO NOT APPLY TO THE EYES.

If Atropine drops are accidentally applied to eyes, please seek medical advice.

### How should you give your child Atropine drops?

- Using the drop dispensing bottle, apply 1 drop (0.5mg) under the tongue as prescribed and shown here. Be careful not to squeeze out too many drops - otherwise you may get side effects.



- This can be repeated every 4-6 hours as prescribed (maximum 4 times in 24 hours)

### What precautions should I take when using Atropine drops?

Atropine drops are suitable for most people and should be used as prescribed. Please inform the health care team what other medicines your child is taking to help reduce the risk of side effects, when drugs are combined. Please inform the Symptom Care Team if your child is taking complementary medicines or over-the-counter medicines from a chemist or supermarket.

### What side effects might my child experience when taking Atropine drops?

Common side effects may include:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Very dry mouth and throat | • Drowsiness               |
| • Blurred vision            | • Upset stomach            |
| • Gritty eyes               | • Difficulty passing urine |
| • Facial flushing           | • Lightheaded or dizzy     |
| • Headaches and nausea      | • Constipation             |

All these side effects are less likely with small doses prescribed

Rare side effects include:

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Rash                             | • Excitement           |
| • Fast and/or irregular heart rate | • Irritability         |
| • Severe abdominal pain            | • Behaviour changes    |
| • Fever                            | • Hallucinations       |
| • Confusion                        | • Difficulty breathing |

No person is the same and may react differently to a medicine

### What other information should you know about Atropine drops?

Atropine drops should be stored in a cool, dry place, away from sunlight and out of reach of children.

### Contact details

If you have any questions about this information, please contact:

The Children and Young People's Oncology Outreach and symptom care Nurse Specialist (CYPOONS) team

Tel: 020 8661 3625

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

Evenings, nights, weekends and all bank holidays

Please call The Royal Marsden switchboard, speak to the operator and ask for the PATCH service. The Royal Marsden switchboard: 020 8642 6011

