

## Patient information

# Mitomycin 0.04% Eye Drops

St Paul's Eye Unit – Ophthalmology

### **What are mitomycin eye drops used for?**

Mitomycin is a cytotoxic medicine. Mitomycin eye drops are used to remove abnormal cells on the surface of your eye to prevent future problems.

### **Are mitomycin eye drops suitable for everyone?**

No. Please inform your doctor if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, are breastfeeding, or if you have ever had an allergic reaction to mitomycin, or a preservative called benzalkonium chloride.

### **Are there any side effects?**

Mitomycin eye drops may cause redness, irritation, discomfort, discharge from your eye or eye pain. These symptoms should stop after you have finished your treatment. If you have any of the following side effects, please contact the clinic immediately for advice:

- Severe redness of the eyes or eyelids
- Itchy or swollen eyelids
- Droopy eyelids
- Severe light sensitivity
- Eye pain lasting for a long time

## **Are there any safety concerns with mitomycin eye drops?**

Mitomycin is a cytotoxic medicine which means that it can damage healthy tissue cells and can be harmful if misused. It is therefore important that you handle your drops with care, using them only as prescribed.

## **What if I spill mitomycin eye drops on my skin?**

Mitomycin can harm your skin. Wash the skin straight away with plenty of water. This should be repeated using warm soapy water. Gently dry the area. If redness or irritation lasts for more than a few hours, contact your GP or clinic.

## **What if I spill mitomycin eye drops on the floor or a surface?**

Wear disposable gloves. Cover the spillage using paper towels to mop up the liquid. Wipe the surface or floor with warm, soapy water, repeat this twice. Double bag any used towels and throw away in your household waste.

## **How should I dispose of mitomycin eye drops?**

You will be given a special container to discard of your used bottles, gloves and droppers safely. On completion of treatment, the container should be sealed and returned to the hospital pharmacy for safe disposal (either at your home hospital or when you return to Liverpool).

## **How do I use my eye drops?**

1. Please follow the instructions on the bottle label
2. Wash your hands before opening the bottle
3. Apply a barrier cream e.g. Vaseline to the skin around your eye and eyelids. Wash and dry your hands again, then put on your disposable gloves.
4. Sit down and tilt your head back

**5.** Pull lower eyelid down and look up

**6.** Use other hand to squeeze one drop into lower eyelid making sure the nozzle does not touch your eye, eyelashes or eyelid

**7.** Close your eye and press gently on the inner corner of the eye for 30-60 seconds to make sure the drop is fully absorbed.

**8.** Please leave at least five minutes between using other eye drops

**9.** If both eyes are affected, you will need a separate bottle of eye drops for each eye

**10.** Dispose of your eye drop bottles, gloves and

### **How should I store my eye drops?**

Mitomycin eye drops should be stored in a fridge between 2°C and 8°C and should be protected from light.

They should be stored out of sight and reach of children.

If your eye drops are left out of the fridge, please contact the hospital for further supply

### **How long will my eye drops last?**

Mitomycin eye drops are made in the hospital and expire 14 days after they are made.

Once opened, mitomycin eye drops expire after seven days. This means that you will need a new bottle of eye drops every week and any used bottles should be thrown away. They will need to be disposed of in a special purple lidded bin which will be provided by the hospital.

The expiry date will be written on the eye drop bottle label

### **Where can I get supply of my eye drops?**

Mitomycin eye drops are only supplied by the hospital.

This is because mitomycin eye drops are an unlicensed medicine made by the hospital.

Because this product has a short shelf life, you may need to return to the hospital to collect more eye drops.

### **How can I speak to someone if I have a problem with my medication or need further supply?**

You can contact the ophthalmology pharmacists Monday-Friday 9-5pm if you have run out of your eye drops or if you have problems with the medication.

You can email: [ahn-tr.uveitis.liverpool@nhs.net](mailto:ahn-tr.uveitis.liverpool@nhs.net)

Or you can telephone: 0151 706 2000 and ask the operator bleep 5141

At the weekend, please contact the hospital pharmacy on 0151 706 2092 between 9am and 4pm.

### **What does it mean if a medicine is unlicensed?**

In the UK, medicines are checked to make sure they work and are safe. These checks are normally part of a clinical trial. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) gives a product licence to medicines which have passed these checks. The product licence, also called a market authorisation, will say which condition or conditions that medicine can be used to treat. An unlicensed medicine is a medicine which does not have a product licence. A medicine might be unlicensed for various reasons such as:

- Manufacturers may decide not to try to get new uses for a medicine added to the product license because it is very expensive to complete the necessary clinical trials.
- The number of people with a particular condition is too small to allow clinical trials to be completed.

- The medicine is still going through the licensing process, which can take some time.

## **How do I know these medicines are safe and will work?**

Your prescribers will have considered all the options for treating your condition before deciding to give you an unlicensed medicine. The prescriber will have thought carefully about the best medicine for you and your condition. Prescribers have a lot of experience with medicines. They will have read specialist information about the unlicensed medicine and may have talked to other experts about your treatment.

## **What if I don't want to use an unlicensed medicine?**

This is your choice to make. Talk it over with your prescriber. Tell them what you are worried about. They will be able to give you more information and advice about the medicine. Your prescriber will also be able to discuss alternative treatments with you and explain why they think this option is the best for you

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further information**

**St Paul's Outpatients Tel: 0151 706 3928**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3928**

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