

Eye Drop Side Effects

Serious side effects from eye drops are very uncommon but you need to be aware of them. Less severe problems such as stinging and irritation may be tolerable if the medication is working well, but equally may be unacceptable as glaucoma medications need to be used long term.

Betablocker eye drops

Eye drops such as Timolol, Betoptic, Timoptol, Combigan and Dortim eye drops can cause:

- Shortness of breath, wheeziness
- Tiredness
- Depression
- Disturbing bad dreams
- Impotence, problems with sexual activity
- Reduced ability to exercise

Brimonidine (also found in Combigan) eye drops

Patients taking Brimonidine eye drops sometimes get:

- Tiredness, drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Conjunctivitis (red, uncomfortable eyes, due to allergy, usually after using the drops for several months)

Prostaglandin eye drops

These include Latanoprost, Travoprost and Bimatoprost and can cause:

- Red eyes
- Bruising appearance to the eyelids
- Long eyelashes
- Gritty eyes
- Sunken eyes

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor eye drops

(Trusopt, Azopt & Dortim)

- Trusopt stings because it has to be a little acidic
- Allergies similar to the Brimonidine allergy can occur after a number of months
- Metallic taste

This fact sheet does not include all possible side effects from eye drops. If you are concerned by other potential side effects from drops, or if you are having problems with any of the symptoms listed above, please tell your ophthalmologist, optometrist or GP but do not discontinue use until otherwise advised by your health professional.