

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Anti-Infective Eye Preparations



What are Eye Infections Caused by?

Eye infections are commonly caused by bacteria, fungi or viruses.

What are the Medications Used to Treat Eye Infections?

- Most acute superficial eye infections can be treated with eye drops or eye ointments.
- Your doctor will prescribe the appropriate anti-infective eye preparations depending on the cause of infection.

Medication Class	Medication Name
Anti-bacterials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amikacin • Cephazolin • Chlortetracycline • Ciprofloxacin • Clarithromycin • Gentamicin • Fusidic acid • Levofloxacin • Tobramycin
Anti-virals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acyclovir • Ganciclovir
Anti-fungals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphotericin

How are the Medications Administered?

Eye Drops

The correct way of applying eye drops is:

1. Wash your hands before you apply.
2. Read the instructions on the label.
3. Shake the bottle gently before use (for eye suspension only).
4. Remove the seal for a new bottle.
5. Sit with your head tilted backward and look upward.
6. With one finger, gently pull down your lower eyelid to form a pocket.

7. Hold the bottle with the application tip as close to the eye as possible. Avoid touching the eye with the tip.
8. Instill the number of drops as directed by your doctor into the eye
9. Gently depress the inner corner of your eye with your finger for 1 minute, to prevent medication from entering the tear duct.
10. Close the eye, but do not rub it. Wipe off any excess drops around the eye with a clean tissue.

Eye Ointments

The correct way of applying eye ointments is:

1. Wash your hands before you apply.
2. Remove the lid of the ointment and tilt your head back.
3. Gently pull down your lower eyelid and look upward.
4. Hold the tube above the eye and gently squeeze a 1cm line of ointment along the inside of the lower eyelid, taking care not to touch the eye or eyelashes with the tip of the tube.
5. Close your eyes for 1-2 minutes.
6. Wipe away any excess ointment with a clean tissue.

Your vision may be blurred when you open your eyes. However, the blurring should clear after a few moments if you keep blinking.

If you miss a dose, administer the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, administer only the usual dose. Never administer a double dosage to make up for the missed dose.

Can the Medications be Administered With Other Medications?

- If you have to apply two different types of eye drops at the same time, apply the second eye drop 5 minutes after applying the first.
- If you are using more than one types of ointment, wait for about 20 minutes before using the next ointment, to allow the first drop to be absorbed into the eye.
- Always apply eye drops first, followed by eye suspensions, eye gels or eye ointments.
- It is important that you inform the doctor, pharmacist or nurse about other medications – including over-the-counter medications, supplements and traditional/herbal remedies – that you are currently taking, as they may affect the way you benefit from your anti-infective eye preparations.

What are the Important Side Effects?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition, although they may result in some side effects.
- Side effects like stinging, redness or aches should improve upon usage. Check with your pharmacist or doctor if these conditions do not improve after a few days.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after administering the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are there any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- DO NOT wear contact lenses during your medication treatment.
- Anti-infective eye preparations are prescribed for your current eye condition only. Do not reuse or exceed the duration of treatment.
- Most eye preparations are to be discarded 30 days after opening or as directed by the doctor or pharmacist.

How do I Store These Medications?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.
- For eye drop(s) that needs to be stored in the refrigerator: Store in a refrigerator between 2 – 8°C. Do not freeze.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

