



211 West Wacker Drive
Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60606
1-800-331-2020
www.preventblindness.org



GLAUCOMA MEDICATIONS

Glaucoma Medicines

Eye doctors use many medicines to treat glaucoma to lower pressure inside the eye. Often, people with glaucoma must take these medicines for life to control the pressure and limit vision loss. Glaucoma medicines are usually in the form of drops, but also come in pills or ointment. They work to lower the amount of aqueous fluid produced and/or improve fluid drainage in the eye.

Treatment cannot reverse damage that has already occurred, but it can prevent further vision loss. Eye doctors know how to treat glaucoma, but they have to work with you to find the best way to treat your disease. All glaucoma medicines may cause side effects, some of which can be uncomfortable. A few side effects can be quite serious, but these are not common.

Doctors are researching new drugs that can protect or strengthen the optic nerve. Some medicines already available may help stabilize the optic nerve as well as lower pressure inside the eye.

Glaucoma Medication Tips

Ask your doctor to write down an exact schedule for taking your medicine, especially if you're taking more than one.

Ask your doctor what to do if you accidentally forget a dose. The instructions may be different depending on which medicines you are taking.

Learn about the medicines you are taking and the best way to use them. For instance, do they need special handling, such as refrigeration storage?

If you take a combination of drops and ointments, always apply the drops first.

Schedule your doses around your normal routine, such as when you wake up, when you eat meals, and when you go to bed at night.

Keep medicines in plain sight as it is easier to remember to take them. If you carry them in your purse, put them in a pill box to keep them clean.

If you forget a dose, do not automatically double your next dose. Instead, follow your doctor's instructions on what to do.

If you can't remember if you took your medicines, simply use one dose at your next scheduled time.

Tell **all** of your doctors about **all** the medicines you are taking. Glaucoma medicines may interact with drugs prescribed for other conditions.

Call your eye doctor if you notice any unusual changes in your eyes, your vision, or the way you feel in general.

Schedule and keep regular checkups.

Take care of yourself—your eyes and the rest of you along with them!

Call the PBA Hotline at 1-800-331-2020 for more information on glaucoma.

Drug Categories**Generic Names****Brand Names**

Beta Blockers

betaxolol
carteolol
levobunolol
metipranolol
timolol hemihydrate
timolol maleateBetoptic[®], Betoptic[®]S
Ocupress[®]
Betagan[®]
OptiPranolol[®]
Betimol[®]
Timoptic[®], Timoptic-XE[®]
Cosopt[®] (see also
anhydrase inhibitors)

Alpha-Adrenergic Agonists

apraclonidine
brimonidine tartrateIopidine[®]
Alphagan[®], Alphagan-P[®]

Prostaglandin Analogues

latanoprost
travoprost
bimatoprost
unoprostoneXalatan[®]
Travatan[®]
Lumigan[®]
Rescula[®]

Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors

acetazolamide
methazolamide
dichlorphenamide
brinzolamide hydrochloride
dorzolamide hydrochlorideDiamox[®]
Neptazane[®]
Daranide[®]
Azopt[®]
Trusopt[®], Cosopt[®]
(see beta blockers)

Epinephrine-related Drugs

dipivefrin
epinephrinePropine[®]
Epifrin[®], Glaucon[®]

Miotics

carbachol
pilocarpineIsopto[®] Carbachol
Isopto[®] Carpine
Pilocar[®], Pilopine[®]
Pilagan[®]

Anticholinesterase Iodide

echothiophate iodide

Phospholine[®] Iodide

Combinations containing two medications in the same bottle:

CoSopt[®] = Timoptic[®] and Trusopt[®]Xalacom[®] = Xalatan[®] and timolol (not available in the U.S. 7/1/03)E-pilo[®] = Epinephrine[®] and pilocarpine

This publication is copyrighted. This sheet may be reproduced—unaltered, in hard print (photocopied) for educational purposes only. The Prevent Blindness America name, logo, telephone number and copyright information may not be omitted. Electronic reproduction, other reprint, excerpt or use is not permitted without written consent. Because of the time-sensitive nature of the information contained in this publication, use after 1/06 is not recommended. Contact Prevent Blindness America for updates.