

## How to use your 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) 1% Eye drops

Wash and dry your hands, put on the gloves provided. Remove the cap from the container, avoiding touching either the inner portion of the cap or the dropper part of the bottle.



If someone is putting the drops in for you look up and away from the tip of the dropper.

One drop should be delivered to the area needing treatment.



If you are doing it yourself, pull down the lower eyelid until there is a small pocket between the lid and the eye. Put in one drop.

Do not let the tip of the dropper touch the eye.

Replace and tighten the cap immediately after use. Use a clean tissue to wipe any excess liquid from your cheek.

Dispose of gloves in the bin provided and wash hands thoroughly after use.

You have been prescribed these eye drops to treat your eye condition. Your doctor will have explained that this is an unlicensed (off label) but safe use of 5-FU, and you will have been asked to give your consent to this choice of therapy.

5-FU is a cytotoxic agent, which means it must be handled with care, as it can be toxic on contact with the skin. The drops should be handled carefully using gloves and disposable plastic apron as supplied.

Before the drops are issued you will attend eye clinic for a small plug to be inserted into the punctum (tear duct) to block the route for tear

drainage. Plugs may need to be removed in clinic at the end of treatment.

A fresh supply of drops will either need to be collected from the pharmacy after your clinic appointment or delivered to you on an agreed date by the pharmacist.

**Remember that the eye drops have been prescribed for you only and you must never let other people use them.**

**Caution:** Handling of drops is not recommended during pregnancy; care should be taken by those of childbearing age.

Store the drops in the fridge. Follow the 'use by' instructions on the label.

**ONE drop should be put into the eye FOUR times daily (ideally this should be every 6 hours, but an interval of 4 hours between doses is acceptable)**

Should you need to use other drops at the same time of day, leave at least 5 minutes between instilling them.

**Use the yellow bin provided to dispose of used bottles and gloves.**

It is important to put all waste in this and return it to the pharmacy sealed for disposal at the end of the treatment period.

The drops will be issued as separate bottles for use over 24 hrs and then binned. The doctor will discuss what is judged to be the most appropriate treatment period for you.

The drops may sting initially. However, if you experience any of the following, contact the department as soon as possible for advice.

- Redness of the eye/eyelids
- Itching or swelling of the eyelids
- Intolerance to bright light
- Prolonged irritation or pain

**Contact details.**

Clinical Nurse Specialist for advice.

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