

LEDERMAN AND LEDERMAN, LLP

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ATROPINE 0.01%: A NEW USE FOR AN OLD MEDICATION

- What is myopia?** A condition in which the eye cannot focus on distant objects.
- Can we slow myopic progression?** Perhaps, if we can decrease the elongation of the eye.
- How?** Current research performed in Singapore shows that Atropine 0.01% eye drops slow the progression of myopia by 50% over 5 years. It does not reverse myopia. The exact mechanism of action is not yet known.
- How often is the eye drop given?** 1 drop to each eye every day for the next 2-5 years and possibly longer.
- How often will my child need an eye exam?** Examinations will be 2 weeks after starting the drop to rule out complications, every 3 months for the first year, and every 6 months until the drop is stopped and the observation period is complete (1 year after stopping the medication).
- Does the drop feel uncomfortable?** Not typically.
- Does the medication have side-effects?** Very few children may experience mild light sensitivity, difficulty with near work, and/or mild eye irritation. ***This drop should not be ingested: If the medication is swallowed, you must call 911 and bring your child to the ER with the name of the medication.***
- Does it work on everyone?** Of the patients studied in Singapore, 90% had significant slowing of myopic progression.
- Is my child a candidate?** While the study was only performed on children in Singapore, children of all ethnicities have responded favorably in the US. Children must be at least 6 years old and have had significant progression of myopia in the last year. The study included patients 6-12 years of age.
- Why is it not FDA approved?** Atropine has been used as a medication for over 100 years and is FDA approved. This is a new use of a very low dose of Atropine and research is ongoing in this country. It is commercially available in countries in Asia but must be specially made in the US.
- Where do I get the drop?** It must be made at a special pharmacy known as a compounding pharmacy.
Westchester Compounding Pharmacy: (914) 200-1222
- What is the cost?** We do not know if your insurance will cover the exam. The cost of each visit is \$210. We will submit to your insurance with the ICD 10 diagnosis code for myopia (H52.13) If your insurance covers the visit, we will reimburse you. You will also have to buy atropine (about \$30-\$50 per month).
- Articles in the press:**
1. "The Puzzling Rise in Nearsighted Children." Wall Street Journal. April 20, 2015
 2. <https://www.aao.org/eyenet/article/how-to-use-low-dose-atropine-to-slow-myopic-progre>

I have read the above and all of my questions and concerns have been addressed. I choose to initiate treatment of Atropine 0.01% for my child and return for eye exams as scheduled.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PATIENT NAME: _____