

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

Latanoprost

Eye Drops 50 micrograms/mL

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using Latanoprost eye drops.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Latanoprost eye drops. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using Latanoprost eye drops against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Latanoprost eye drops are used for

Latanoprost eye drops are used to lower raised pressure in the eye and to treat glaucoma. Glaucoma is a condition in which the pressure of fluid in the eye may be high. However, some people with glaucoma may have normal eye pressure.

Glaucoma is usually caused by a build up of the fluid which flows through the eye. This build up occurs because the fluid drains out of your eye more slowly than it is being pumped in. Since new fluid continues to enter the eye, joining the fluid already there, the pressure continues to rise. This raised pressure may damage the back of the eye resulting in gradual loss of sight. Damage can progress so slowly that the person is not aware of this gradual loss of sight. Sometimes even normal eye pressure is associated with damage to the back of the eye.

There are usually no symptoms of glaucoma. If glaucoma is not treated it can lead to serious problems, including total blindness. In fact, untreated glaucoma is one of the most common causes of blindness.

How Latanoprost eye drops work

Latanoprost belongs to a family of medicines called prostaglandin agonists. It lowers the pressure in the eye by allowing more fluid to flow out from within your eye.

Although Latanoprost eye drops help control your glaucoma, it does not cure it. So you must keep using it until your doctor tells you to stop.

Latanoprost eye drops are used, either alone or in combination with other eye medicines, to lower raised pressure within your eye.

For more information about glaucoma, contact Glaucoma New Zealand (telephone 09 373 8779).

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Latanoprost eye drops have been prescribed for you.

Latanoprost eye drops are not addictive.

Use in Children

Latanoprost eye drops are not recommended for use in children. The safety and effectiveness of latanoprost in children has not been established.

Before you use Latanoprost eye drops

When you must not use it

Do not use Latanoprost eye drops if:

- **you have an allergy to latanoprost or any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**
Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include: asthma, wheezing or shortness of breath; swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing; hives, itching or skin rash; fainting.
- **the bottle or packaging shows signs of tampering.**
- **the expiry date on the pack has passed.**
If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start using Latanoprost eye drops, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if:

- you have had an allergy to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using Latanoprost eye drops during pregnancy.
- you are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed.
Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using Latanoprost eye drops when breastfeeding.
- you have or have had any medical conditions such as severe asthma, or any other types of glaucoma or eye conditions.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him or her before you use Latanoprost eye drops.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are using Latanoprost eye drops.

Some medicines and latanoprost may interfere with each other. These include:

- eye drops which contain an ingredient called thiomersal. If using such eye drops as well as Latanoprost eye drops, you should wait at least 5 minutes between using these eye drops and Latanoprost eye drops.

- some other eye drops that contain a prostaglandin. The use of two or more prostaglandin eye drops at the same time is not recommended.

How to use Latanoprost eye drops

Use Latanoprost eye drops only when prescribed by your doctor.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you are being changed from one eye drop to another, follow your doctor's instructions carefully as to when to stop the old drops and when to start the new drops.

How much to use

Your doctor will tell you how many drops you need to use each day. Use Latanoprost eye drops only when prescribed by your doctor.

The usual dose of Latanoprost eye drops is one drop into the affected eye, or eyes, once daily.

Use Latanoprost eye drops everyday, at about the same time each day, preferably in the evening, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Using your eye drops at the same time each day will have the best effect on your eye pressure. It will also help you remember when to use the eye drops.

How to use it

If you are wearing soft contact lenses, remove them before putting the drops in your eye.

The preservative in Latanoprost eye drops (benzalkonium chloride) may be deposited in soft contact lenses. You can put your soft contact lenses back into your eyes 15 minutes after you have used Latanoprost eye drops.

If using other eye drops in addition to Latanoprost eye drops, wait at least 5 minutes before putting any other drops in your eye(s).

Be careful not to touch the dropper tip against your eye, eyelid or anything else.

Touching the dropper tip against something may contaminate the eye drops and give you an eye infection.

You may find it easier to put drops in your eye while you are sitting or lying down.

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Avoid touching the eye (or any other surface) with the tip of the bottle.
3. If you wear soft contact lenses, they should be removed before using the eye drops and wait at least 15 minutes before reinserting.
4. These drops are supplied in a plastic bottle with an insert cap assembly, with a tamper proof dust cover. When using the bottle for the first time, snap off the dust cover by turning it clockwise to break the seal.
5. Unscrew the inner cap.
6. Tilt your head back and look at the ceiling. Pull the lower eyelid gently downwards.
7. Hold the bottle upside down above the eye and gently squeeze the bottle to release a drop into your eye.

8. Keep the affected eye closed and press your fingertip against the inside corner of the closed eye, and hold for 1 minute. This is important because it reduces the amount of drug that goes into the rest of your body.
9. Repeat for the other eye if necessary.
10. Recap the bottle after every use, tighten the inner cap on the nozzle.

You may feel a slight burning sensation in the eye shortly after using the eye drops.

If this persists, or is very uncomfortable, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

How long to use it

Continue using Latanoprost eye drops every day for as long as your doctor prescribes. Latanoprost eye drops help control your condition but does not cure it.

If you forget to use it

If you miss a dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

If you are not sure whether to skip the dose, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not use double the amount to make up for the dose that you missed.

While you are using Latanoprost eye drops

Things you must do

To make sure Latanoprost eye drops are working properly, have your eye pressure checked regularly.

Have your eyes checked regularly for any other changes, including a change in eye colour.

A slow change in eye colour, which may be permanent, has been reported to occur in some patients who use Latanoprost eye drops. Your doctor will decide whether you should continue using Latanoprost eye drops.

If you develop an eye infection, receive an eye injury, or have eye surgery tell your doctor.

Your doctor may tell you to use a new container of Latanoprost eye drops because of possible contamination of the old one, or may advise you to stop your treatment with Latanoprost eye drops.

If you become pregnant while using Latanoprost eye drops, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are using Latanoprost eye drops.

Tell all doctors and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Latanoprost eye drops.

Things you must not do

Do not give Latanoprost eye drops to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop using Latanoprost eye drops without first talking to your doctor.

If you stop using your eye drops, your eye pressure may rise again and damage to your eye may occur.

Things to be careful of

Be careful of driving or operating machinery until you know how Latanoprost eye drops affect you.

Latanoprost eye drops generally do not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, it may cause blurred vision in some people. Make sure you know how you react to Latanoprost eye drops or that your vision is clear before driving a car or operating machinery.

In case of overdose

If you use too much (overdose)

If you accidentally put several drops in your eye, immediately rinse your eye with warm water.

If you think that you or anyone else may have swallowed Latanoprost eye drops, immediately telephone your doctor or the New Zealand National Poisons Information Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Side effects

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any problems while using Latanoprost eye drops, even if you do not think the problems are connected with the medicine or are not listed in this leaflet.

Like other medicines, Latanoprost eye drops can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- a slow change in eye colour over a period of time.
The iris may become more brown in colour and appear darker. This change may be permanent and more noticeable if you are only being treated in one eye.
- loss of fat in the eye region which can lead to deepening of your eyelid crease, sunken eye, drooping eyelid, tightening of the skin around your eye, and the lower white part of your eye to become more visible.
- blurred vision, double vision or other visual problems
- irritation or feeling of having something in your eye.
This may be worse during the first two or three days of using Latanoprost eye drops.
- eye pain
- redness, burning or watering of the eye/s
- discharge, itching of the eye/s, crusty eyelashes
- darkening, thickening, lengthening or an increase in the number of eyelashes and the fine hair on the eyelids
- misdirected eyelashes sometimes causing eye irritation

- darkening of the skin of the eyelids
- crusting, redness, thickening, itching or burning of the eyelids
- sensitivity to light
- skin rash
- headache
- muscle/joint pain
- feeling sick (nausea) or vomiting
- painful, urgent or frequent urination

Tell your doctor immediately or go to hospital if:

If any of the following happen, stop using Latanoprost eye drops and tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- wheezing, difficulty in breathing (asthma or worsening of asthma)
- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- you notice strong, rapid or irregular heartbeats
- dizziness
- swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- white deposits or plaque in the cornea causing the transparent front part of your eye to look white or cloudy.

These are rare but serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using Latanoprost eye drops

Storage

Before opening Latanoprost eye drops, keep the bottle in its box in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C) protected from light.

After opening Latanoprost eye drops, keep the bottle in its box in a cool place where the temperature stays below 25°C. You do not need to keep it refrigerated. Keep the box properly closed and protected from light.

Do not store Latanoprost eye drops or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills. Do not carry the eye drops in pockets of your clothes. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep your eye drops in a safe place away from the sight and reach of children.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above ground is a good place to store medicines.

Put the top back on the bottle right away after use to avoid contaminating the eye drops.

Disposal

Write the date on the bottle when you open the eye drops and throw out any remaining solution after 28 days.

Eye drops contain a preservative which helps prevent germs growing in the solution for the first 28 days after opening the bottle. After this time there is a greater risk that the drops may become contaminated and cause an eye infection.

If your doctor tells you to stop using the eye drops or they have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any remaining solution.

Product description

What it looks like

Latanoprost eye drops are a clear, colourless solution in a 5 mL plastic dropper bottle.

Ingredients

Active ingredient

- Latanoprost

Inactive ingredients

- Sodium chloride
- Sodium dihydrogen phosphate
- Disodium phosphate anhydrous
- Water for Injections
- Benzalkonium chloride (preservative)

Sponsor Details

Supplier

Latanoprost eye drops are distributed in New Zealand by:

Teva Pharma (New Zealand) Limited
PO Box 128 244
Remuera
Auckland 1541
Telephone: 0800 800 097

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This leaflet was prepared on 19 January 2024.