

## LATANOPROST - 50 micrograms/ml EYE DROPS SOLUTION PATIENT INFORMATION

### • WHAT IS LATANOPROST AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR

Latanoprost is a medicine for the treatment of increased intraocular pressure (pressure inside the eye). It is one of a group of medicines known as prostaglandins. Fluid known as aqueous humour is produced inside the eye. This fluid drains into the bloodstream in order to keep the pressure in the eye correct. If this drainage is obstructed, pressure within the eye increases. Latanoprost improves drainage of the fluid and is used to:

- reduce pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma (where there is damage to the optic nerve caused by excessive pressure within the eye).
- reduce pressure in patients who suffer from a condition known as ocular hypertension.

### • HOW TO USE LATANOPROST

Always use latanoprost exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. Unless otherwise prescribed by the doctor, **the usual dose is to insert one drop once a day into each affected eye.** The best time to do this is in the **evening**. If you are using other eye drops in addition to latanoprost, these should be used at least 5 minutes apart. Your doctor will tell you for how long you should use the eye drops

#### How to put your drops in

1. Wash your hands and sit or stand in a comfortable position.
2. Remove the outer protective cap from the bottle.
3. Use your fingertip to gently pull down the lower lid of the affected eye.
4. Place the tip of the bottle close to, but not touching the eye. Carefully squeeze the bottle until one drop falls into your eye. Make sure that you do not squeeze the bottle too hard as only one drop is required in the affected eye.
5. Let go of your eyelid.
6. Press a finger against the inner corner of the eye, by your nose. Hold for 1 minute whilst keeping the eye closed. This will prevent the drop from being absorbed into the body. If prescribed by your doctor, repeat the procedure in your other eye. If the drop should miss your eye, apply another drop.
7. Close the bottle.

Do not use latanoprost after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle label and carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month specified. Once opened, you must discard the bottle - with any remaining contents - after 4 weeks. Otherwise, there is a risk of eye infection.

### • IF YOU FORGET TO USE LATANOPROST

If you have forgotten to use your eye drops, continue your treatment as normal the next scheduled dose. The daily dose of one drop into the affected eye should not be exceeded. So do not use a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

### • POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, latanoprost can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Below are some very common / common side effects. There are some less common ones which you will find in the patient information leaflet inside your eye drop package.

**Very common** (affects more than 1 user in 10):

- change in eye colour: latanoprost can slowly and permanently change eye colour, particularly in eyes of mixed colour (e.g. green-brown or blue-brown eyes). The iris becomes browner and appears darker. Treatment of only one eye may permanently result in eyes with different colour
- eye irritation (including a slight feeling that there is something in your eyes)
- the eyelashes may become darker, thicker and longer

**Common** (affects 1 to 10 users in 100):

- eye redness,
- inflammation of the eyelid margins (blepharitis)
- eye pain

### • VARIATION IN SUPPLIES OF LATANOPROST

A number of different companies make latanoprost eye drops. All the available eye drops in the UK have been granted a licence by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and therefore all work in the same way. There are a number of differences between the available eye drops that you should be aware of:

#### Storage requirements

Depending on the make the storage requirements vary. It is therefore important that you refer to your eye drop container to ensure that your eye drops are stored appropriately. The different recommendations are:

- Store in the fridge
- Store in the fridge until opened then store at room temperature for the four weeks that the bottle is in use
- Store at room temperature

#### Variation in appearance of bottle

Depending on the company producing the eye drops the bottle may look quite different:



When your GP prescribes latanoprost eye drops for you, your prescriptions will be dispensed by your community pharmacist. If you find that one make of eye drops is easier for you to use please inform your pharmacist so that they can try to supply you with the **same** type of bottle for future prescriptions. If you are having difficulties putting the drops into your eye you can discuss this with your pharmacist who will be able to give you advice and offer you possible solutions such as a small device to help you put your drops in.

#### References:

1. Generic Latanoprost Prescribing, The Royal College of Ophthalmologists accessed via <http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/news.asp?section=24&itemid=769>
2. Summary of Product Characteristics accessed via <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/searchresults.aspx?term=latanoprost&searchtype=QuickSearch>