

Patient information

## **Nepafenac Eye Drops**

St Paul's Eye Department

### **Who needs nepafenac eye drops?**

Nepafenac eye drops are for people with eye changes due to diabetes who are having cataract surgery. They may occasionally be used in certain other patients having cataract surgery.

### **What are nepafenac eye drops for?**

Nepafenac eye drops are to prevent swelling of the retina after cataract surgery. The retina is the tissue at the back of the eye which picks up the light, and it can swell with fluid after cataract surgery. This is known as cystoid macular oedema (CMO).

Patients with diabetic eye disease are more prone to developing CMO after cataract surgery and nepafenac reduces the risk of this happening.

People with only mild diabetic eye changes, or previously treated diabetic eye disease which is now inactive do not need nepafenac.

### **What happens if I do not take nepafenac eye drops?**

You have a higher risk of developing CMO after cataract surgery. In one study 17 out of 100 patients developed CMO without nepafenac treatment compared to only three out of 100 developed CMO with nepafenac eye drops. That means that about seven people need to be treated to prevent one case of CMO.

If CMO does occur it often affects your vision. The CMO may or may not respond to further treatment such as injections around the eye or into the eye.

### **How should nepafenac eye drops be taken?**

You should take one drop three times a day in the eye to have cataract surgery starting **the day before** surgery.

You should have one drop on the day of surgery before the operation (usually given on day ward).

After the operation you should take one drop three times a day to the operated eye, starting the day after surgery for **two months**. When the doctor decides you need cataract surgery they will identify that you should be prescribed nepafenac drops because of your diabetic eye disease.

You will be given two bottles at the pre-operative assessment. Keep these in a safe place away from direct sunlight (they do **not** need to go in the fridge).

The day before you are due to come in for surgery open one bottle and start the drops.

**Do not** open them in advance, for instance to try them out, as they will not last long enough.

### **Bring the drops with you on the day of surgery.**

After the operation the nepafenac drops are in addition to the usual post-operative drops, and should be continued for two months.

**Do not** open the second bottle until you have finished the first.

### **What do I do if forget my drops?**

Carry on three times a day once you remember.

## **How do nepafenac eye drops work?**

They belong to the group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). They pass into the eye, and reduce inflammation.

Inflammation can lead to swelling in the retina, so they prevent this.

## **What are the side effects?**

The common side effect is of irritation of the eye, and there may be some drying of the surface of the eye.

Less commonly headaches can occur. Redness and swelling can occur if you are sensitive to the medicine or preservative (benzalkonium chloride) in the eye drops.

If after cataract surgery you develop pain, redness or lid swelling you might be sensitive or allergic to the drops so stop the nepafenac drops.

**Importantly there are other more serious causes so contact St Paul's for advice, and if you vision gets worse attend St Paul's Primary Care walk in service immediately.**

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## Further information

### Royal Liverpool University Hospital

### Medicines Information Line

Tel: 0151 706 2096

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2096

### St Paul's Outpatients

Tel: 0151 706 3928

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3928

### Author: St Paul's Department

Review date: March 2026

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل الائتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونياً.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字

體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 ( Moon ) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانيد کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانباری پښوهندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایین تراستهوه پسهند کراون، نهگه داوا بکریت له فورماتیکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیلی موون و نعلیکترونیکی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字  
体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 ( Moon ) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.