

Tetracaine (amethocaine) hydrochloride

0.5% Single Use Eye Drops

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Note:

This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

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Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient's medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

Synonyms

Amethocaine

Dose and Indications

Local anaesthesia for eye examination and procedures

Ocular

Instil one drop into each eye as required 1 to 5 minutes prior to examination

Preparation and Administration

Ocular

Instil into eye as directed

Apply gentle pressure to the lacrimal sac during and for 60 seconds after administration to minimise systemic absorption

Refrigerate and protect from light. Discard after use.

Adverse Effects

Common

Local burning and stinging sensation

Blurred vision, keratitis, hyperaemia, lacrimation and allergic conjunctivitis



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Rare

Systemic symptoms (apnoea, cardiac arrest, ventricular arrhythmias, irritability and excitation), allergy

Practice Points

- > Prolonged or frequent application is not recommended as it can result in cornea damage
- > Prolonged use has been associated with severe keratitis and permanent corneal opacification and scarring with accompanying reduction of visual acuity or visual loss
- > Systemic absorption can occur, but it can be reduced by pressing the lacrimal sac during and for 60 seconds after administration
- > If other eye drops are required, give tetracaine (amethocaine) first, wait 2 minutes and then give other eye drops
- > Anaesthetic effect occurs within 30-60 seconds and lasts approximately 15 minutes

Document Ownership & History

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