

Eye drops

Questions

Do all eye drops help dry eyes?

While eye drops are used to treat dry eyes, some eye drops you can buy over the counter may have the opposite effect, so make sure you see your optometrist who can give you the best advice on which eye-drop to use.

Do I need to see an optometrist if I am not having eye or vision problems?

Yes, regular check-ups are recommended. As with other diseases, you can have an eye or vision problem without symptoms, and some serious eye conditions have symptoms only in the advanced stages.

Do eye drops help eliminate the need for prescription glasses?

No. Eye drops are used to treat conditions like conjunctivitis, allergies, dry eyes and glaucoma, and not short-sightedness, long-sightedness or astigmatism.

What are prescription eye drops?

Eye drops include antibiotics and antivirals for the treatment of eye infections, anti-inflammatories to reduce eye inflammation and redness, special eye drops to reduce the pressure inside the eye for glaucoma, and artificial tears and lubricants for treating eye discomfort and dry eyes.

Some of the eye drops optometrists recommend can be bought over the counter from an optometrist but many require a special prescription.

Why do optometrists use prescription eye drops?

Optometrists see a variety of eye and vision problems. Often they are treated with prescription glasses, contact lenses, eye exercises or referral to an eye surgeon but sometimes, your optometrist may prescribe eye drops or ointments.

What eye and vision conditions can my optometrist treat with eye drops?

Your optometrist can use prescription eye drops to treat many eye conditions. These include:

- > Dry eyes
- > Eye infections such as blepharitis, conjunctivitis and keratitis
- > Eye allergies
- > Eye inflammation

Optometrists can also prescribe eye drops for the management of glaucoma and will work closely with an eye specialist to manage your glaucoma.

Should I go to my GP for a prescription?

Just like your GP, your optometrist is able to prescribe eye drops. There is no difference in these prescriptions and many will be eligible for a government Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidy.

What happens if I have questions about side-effects or risks?

Like all medications eye drops can have some side-effects. These may range from a small sting when an eye-drop goes into the eye to more serious side-effects if the drops are not used correctly. Your optometrist is trained to understand all the potential side-effects and whether eye drops may interact with other medication you are using. Feel free to ask your optometrist any questions you have about your eye health.

How do I insert eye drops?

Your optometrist will explain how to insert eye drops, how frequently and how many days you should use them, as well as any special instructions such as shaking the bottle before use when you are given a prescription for eye drops.

For more information and help to select the treatments that meet all your eye care and lifestyle needs, ask your optometrist or visit goodvisionforlife.com.au

Your optometrist

