

## **Alaska Children's Eye and Strabismus**

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### **WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR CHILD'S EYES ARE DILATED**

YOUR CHILD'S EYES MAY BE DILATED DURING HIS/HER EYE EXAM. CYCLOGEL (cyclopentolate) IS MOST COMMONLY USED. THE DILATIONS ENABLES THE DOCTOR TO EVALUATE THE HEALTH OF YOUR CHILD'S EYES AND ALSO ALLOWS THE DOCTOR TO ACCURATELY MEASURE YOUR CHILD'S NEED FOR EYE GLASSES. ATROPINE CAN BE USED TO TREAT AMBLYOPIA.

THE PUPIL DILATION MAY LAST A LONG TIME AFTER THE OFFICE VISIT. YOUR CHILD'S VISION WILL BE BLURRY AND HE/SHE MAY BE LIGHT SENSITIVE. DISPOSABLE SUNGLASSES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE FRONT DESK WHEN YOU CHECK OUT AFTER THE EXAM.

Dilating drops can last a long time:

Tropicamide	4-8 hours
Neosynephrine	4-8 hours
Cyclopentolate (most common in children)	1-2 days
Scopolamine	2-3 days
Homatropine	2-3 days
Atropine	1 or more weeks

SOME CHILDREN MAY EXPERIENCE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE DILATING DROPS. SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE DROWSINESS, RED, DRY, FLUSHED SKIN OR A MILD FEVER. HOWEVER, MOST CHILDREN DO NOT EXPERIENCE THESE SIDE EFFECTS. DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DRINK THE EYEDROPS. PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS DESCRIBED ABOVE. MOST CASES ARE SIMPLY TREATED WITH TYLENOL AND REST.

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