



NEONATAL Medication Monograph

# TETRACAINE (Amethocaine) EYE DROPS

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

**Unrestricted:** Any prescriber may initiate treatment

<b>Presentation</b>	0.5% (5mg/mL) Minim 0.5mL single use container
<b>Description</b>	Ester-type local anaesthetic eye drop
<b>Indications</b>	Local anaesthesia for eye examination (including RetCam)
<b>Contraindications</b>	Significant Eye infection Hypersensitivity to any components of the preparation Patients being treated with sulphonamides
<b>Precautions</b>	Prolonged use is not recommended as repeated instillations have been associated with corneal damage in preterm infants
<b>Dosage</b>	Instil 1 drop into each eye immediately prior to RetCam examination
<b>Dosage Adjustment</b>	Further drops may be needed to achieve complete anaesthetic effect
<b>Adverse Reactions</b>	<b>Common:</b> Local burning and stinging on instillation <b>Serious:</b> Severe keratitis, epithelial toxicity (do not use long term)
<b>Administration</b>	For Individual Patient Use Only Apply pressure to the lacrimal sac during and for 60 seconds after instillation of eye drop to minimise systemic absorption. Wipe away excess medication Normal corneal sensitivity can be expected after approximately 1 hour
<b>Storage</b>	Store at 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerate. Do not freeze.) Protect from light Each Minims unit should be discarded after a single use

<b>Notes</b>	Anaesthesia occurs after 20 seconds and lasts 10-20 minutes
<b>Related clinical guidelines</b>	<a href="#">Retinopathy of Prematurity</a>
<b>Interactions</b>	Metabolism may be inhibited by anticholinesterases with prolongation of the effects of amethocaine. May competitively enhance the neuromuscular blocking action of suxamethonium.
<b>References</b>	<p>Takemoto CK, Hodding JH, Kraus DM. Pediatric &amp; neonatal dosage handbook with international trade names index : a universal resource for clinicians treating pediatric and neonatal patients. 24th ed. Hudson (Ohio): Lexicomp; 2019. p1902</p> <p>Amethocaine. In: The Royal Hospital for Women [Internet]. [South Eastern Sydney, New South Wales;2016 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: <a href="https://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/royal-hospital-for-women/neomed-formularies">https://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/royal-hospital-for-women/neomed-formularies</a></p> <p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Tetracaine. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2017 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>MIMS Australia. Minims Amethocaine Eye Drops. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2020 [cited 2020 July 10]. Available from: <a href="https://www.mimsonline.com.au">https://www.mimsonline.com.au</a></p>

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