

Tafluprost eye drops (Saflutan)

Tafluprost reduces raised pressure in your eye.

Remember to use the eye drops every day.

The drops can alter the colour of your eyes over time, and cause your eyelashes to grow darker and thicker. Your doctor will discuss this with you.

About tafluprost eye drops

Type of medicine	Prostaglandin analogue
Used for	To reduce raised pressure within your eye
Also called	Saflutan®; Combination brand: Taptiqom® (tafluprost with timolol)
Available as	Bottles of eye drops and single-dose units of eye drops

An increase in pressure within your eye can lead to damage to the optic nerve at the back of your eye. When this occurs it is called [glaucoma](#). Glaucoma can lead to a loss of vision if it is not treated. If you have an increased pressure within your eye but without any damage to the optic nerve, this is called ocular hypertension. People with ocular hypertension have an increased risk of later developing glaucoma. Treatment with tafluprost eye drops helps to reduce eye pressure in people with ocular hypertension, and to prevent further eye damage in people with open-angle glaucoma.

Tafluprost eye drops work by increasing the drainage of fluid from inside your eye. This helps to lower the pressure within your eye. Tafluprost eye drops are available as single-dose units which do not contain a preservative.

Sometimes, more than one type of eye drop is needed to keep the pressure in the eye low. If this is the case for you, you may be asked to use two different eye drops, or you may be given drops which combine more than one type. Tafluprost is available as a combination eye drop with another medicine which reduces eye pressure, called [timolol \(a beta-blocker\)](#), in a brand called Taptiqom®.

Before using tafluprost eye drops

Some medicines are not suitable for people with certain conditions, and sometimes a medicine can only be used if extra care is taken. For these reasons, before you start using tafluprost it is important that your doctor knows:

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- If you have had surgery on your eye to replace or remove the lens (such as cataract removal).
- If you have a breathing problem such as asthma or COPD.
- If you have had problems in the past with viral infections in your eye.
- If you are taking or using any other medicines or eye drops. This includes any medicines you are taking which are available to buy without a prescription, as well as herbal and complementary medicines.
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine.

How to use tafluprost eye drops

1. Wash your hands well before you use the drops.
2. Detach one single-dose unit from the strip inside the pouch. Twist off the end to open it.
3. Tilt your head back a little and pull the lower lid of your eye downwards to form a pocket.

4. Hold the single-dose unit upside down near to your eye. Try not to touch your eye as you do this.
5. Apply enough pressure to release one drop into your eye. Do not use more than one drop - using several drops does not improve your glaucoma but will increase the risk of side-effects.
6. Close your eye for a minute or two, and press gently on the side of your nose where the corner of your eye meets your nose. This helps to stop the drop from draining away and keeps it in your eye.
7. Repeat the process in your other eye if you have been told to use the drops in both eyes. There is sufficient liquid in one single-dose unit to put a drop into both eyes.
8. Throw away the used unit, even if there is some solution remaining in it. Do not store opened containers to use later.

Getting the most from your treatment

- Before you start using the eye drops, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from the pack. It will give you more information about the eye drops and will provide you with a full list of the side-effects which you could experience from using them.
- Use one drop in the eye (or eyes) affected once a day. Your doctor may recommend you use the drops in the evening.
- Remember to use the drops every day. If you do forget, do not double up on the next day to make up for a missed dose.
- If any of the eye drop solution runs on to your face, wipe it away as soon as you can with a clean tissue or hanky.
- Take care not to touch the tip of the unit with your eye, fingers, or any other surface. This is to prevent the drops from becoming contaminated.
- If you are using any other eye drops, leave 5-10 minutes between applying each one. This is to prevent more liquid going into your eye than it can handle. Otherwise the drops will overflow from your eye and not have the intended effect.

- When first put in, eye drops can make your eyes water and may sometimes cause blurred vision. If this happens, it should quickly clear. Make sure you can see clearly again before you drive and before you use tools or machines.
- Keep your regular appointments with your doctor and eye clinic so that your progress can be checked.

Can tafluprost eye drops cause problems?

Along with their useful effects, eye drops can cause unwanted side-effects although not everyone experiences them. The table below contains the most common ones associated with tafluprost. You will find a full list in the manufacturer's information leaflet supplied with the drops. The unwanted effects often improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine, but speak with your doctor or pharmacist for further advice if any of the following continue or become troublesome.

Common tafluprost side-effects (these affect fewer than 1 in 10 people)	What can I do if I experience this?
Redness in your eye, eye irritation, pain or itching	Discuss this with your doctor if you are concerned
Blurred vision, watery eyes	If your vision is affected, do not drive and do not use tools or machines
Changes in the colour of the iris of your eyes, longer or thicker eyelashes, darker skin on your eyelids	Discuss these with your doctor. These changes occur over time and can be permanent
Sensitivity to light	Wearing sunglasses may help
Headache	Drink plenty of water and ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable painkiller. If the headaches continue, let your doctor know

If you experience any other symptoms which you think may be due to the eye drops, speak with your doctor or pharmacist for further advice.

How to store tafluprost eye drops

- Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store unopened foil pouches in a refrigerator. Once the pouch has been opened, you can keep it out of the fridge (but still in a cool place) for up to four weeks. Do not use any single-dose containers that have been stored outside of a fridge for more than four weeks.

Important information about all medicines

If you buy any medicines check with a pharmacist that they are safe to take with your prescribed medicines.

The drops are for use in the eyes only. If someone swallows some by accident, go to the accident and emergency department of your local hospital. Take the container with you, even if it is empty.

If you are having an operation or dental treatment, tell the person carrying out the treatment which medicines you are taking.

This medicine is for you. Never give it to other people even if their condition appears to be the same as yours.

Do not keep out-of-date or unwanted medicines. Take them to your local pharmacy which will dispose of them for you.

If you have any questions about this medicine ask your pharmacist.

If you experience side effects, you can report them online through the [Yellow Card website](#).

Further reading

- [Manufacturer's PIL, Saflutan® 15 micrograms/ml eye drops, solution, single-dose container](#); Santen UK Limited, The electronic Medicines Compendium. Dated July 2021.
- [Manufacturer's PIL, Taptiqom® 15 micrograms/ml + 5 mg/ml eye drops, solution in single-dose container](#); Santen UK Ltd, The electronic Medicines Compendium. Dated January 2022.
- [Medicines Complete BNF 88th Edition](#); British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London.

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