

## Emedastine eye drops for hay fever

**Clinical author's note Michael Stewart 02/02/2021:** Emadine® eye drops were discontinued in the UK in April 2017. At the time of review there are no branded or generic eye drop products containing emedastine available in the UK or USA. Emedastine eye drops may still be available in other countries. This Medicine Leaflet is based on medical information available in the UK at the time of writing. Please also refer to the manufacturer's information supplied with your medicine.

Emedastine drops relieve eye irritation associated with allergies like hay fever.

Use one drop twice a day, in the morning and the evening

It is not recommended that you wear soft contact lenses while you are using the drops.

### About emedastine eye drops

Type of medicine	Antihistamine eye preparation
Used for	Eye irritation associated with seasonal allergic conjunctivitis
Also called	Emadine® (discontinued)
Available as	Eye drops

Hay fever is caused by an allergy to pollen. The symptoms of hay fever are due to your immune system reacting to pollen. Cells on the lining of your eyes release a chemical called histamine, which causes conjunctivitis (eye inflammation). Hay fever is also called [seasonal allergic conjunctivitis](#) because symptoms tend to occur at the same time, or in the same season, each year. Typical symptoms of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis are red, itchy and watery eyes. Emedastine drops relieve these symptoms by blocking the action of histamine in the cells on the surface of your eyes.

## Before using emedastine eye drops

To make sure this is the right treatment for you, before you start using the eye drops it is important that your doctor knows:

- If you wear soft contact lenses.
- If you are pregnant. Emedastine drops can usually be used if you are expecting a baby, but it is still important that you tell your doctor about this.
- If you have kidney or liver problems, or if you are over 65 years of age. This is because emedastine has not been studied in these groups of people.
- If the drops are for a young child. Emedastine drops are not recommended for a child under 3 years old.
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to an antihistamine or to any eye drops.
- If you are taking or using any other medicines. This includes any medicines you are taking which are available to buy without a prescription, such as herbal and complementary medicines.

## How to use emedastine eye drops

1. Wash your hands well before you use the drops.
2. Open the bottle.
3. Tilt your head back a little and pull the lower lid of your eye downwards to form a pocket.

4. Hold the bottle upside down near to your eye. Try not to touch your eye as you do this.
5. Gently press on the base of the bottle to release one drop into your eye.
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.
8. Put the cap back on the bottle.

## Getting the most from your treatment

- Before using the eye drops, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from inside the pack. It will give you more information about emedastine drops and will provide you with a full list of the side-effects which you may experience from using them.
- Use emedastine drops twice a day. Most doctors will recommend using them in the morning and the evening. You may need to continue to use the drops until the pollen season ends - this will often mean using them for a number of weeks.
- Take care not to touch your eye, fingers, or any other surface with the dropper of the bottle. This could infect the drops left in the bottle.
- When you first put the drops into your eye, it may cause blurred vision. This should quickly clear, but make sure you can see clearly again before you drive and before you use machines or tools.
- If your symptoms do not improve within a week, or if they become worse, check again with your doctor for further advice.
- If you are using any other eye drops, leave at least five minutes between applying each preparation. 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.

- Do not wear soft contact lenses while you are using emedastine eye drops, unless your doctor has advised you otherwise. This is because there is a preservative in the drops which can affect soft contact lenses.

## Can emedastine eye drops cause problems?

Along with their useful effects, most medicines can cause unwanted side-effects although not everyone experiences them. The table below contains some of the most common ones associated with emedastine eye drops. You will find a full list in the manufacturer's information leaflet supplied with the drops. Speak with your doctor if any of the following continue or become troublesome.

Common emedastine side-effects	What can I do if I experience this?
Blurred vision, eye discomfort (such as burning or stinging), itchy eyes, redness	These usually disappear within a few minutes of using the drops. Do not drive and do not use tools or machines unless your vision is clear
Occasional headache	If this becomes troublesome, ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable painkiller

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

## How to store emedastine eye drops

- Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct heat and light.
- Eye drops only keep for four weeks once the bottle has been opened, so do not use the drops if the bottle has been open for longer than this. This will help to prevent eye infections.

# Important information about all medicines

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

Never use more than the prescribed dose.

If you suspect that someone has swallowed some of this medicine, 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 using.

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.

Report suspected side effects to medicines, vaccines, e-cigarettes, medical device incidents, defective or falsified (fake) products to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to ensure safe and effective use.

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## Further reading

- [FDA Drug Label, Emadine® eye drops](#); Alcon Laboratories, Inc. DailyMed, National Institutes of Health, US National Library of Medicines. Last updated September 2017.
- [Medicines Complete BNF 87th Edition](#); British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London.

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