



# Acetylcysteine eye drops

More information about your medicine

May 2018

## Why you need this medicine

These eye drops are used for one of the following conditions:

*1. Diseases that produce too much mucus on the cornea (clear surface of your eye)*

Diseases include dry eyes (including Sjögren's syndrome) and a condition called filamentary keratitis.

Acetylcysteine is used to make the eye more comfortable. It's used when other treatments have not worked. It breaks down substances on the eye that can cause pain, irritation, dry eye or a feeling that there is something in your eye. It helps to reduce mucus in the eye.

*2. Diseases of the cornea that affect collagen*

Collagen is found in all parts of the body and is needed to hold everything together (like scaffolding). Some eye diseases can break down the collagen in the cornea, causing your eye sight to worsen. Acetylcysteine eye drops stop collagen breaking down so it can help the eye heal and help improve your eyesight.

## Before you use this medicine

You must speak to the doctor before using this medicine if you:

- Are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.
- Are allergic to this medicine or other ingredients in these drops.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicines.

## How to use this medicine

Use these eye drops as prescribed by the doctor.

If you wear contact lenses, remove them before using these eye drops. Wait 15 minutes after the eye drops before you put your contact lens back in.

1. Remove the bottle from the fridge a few minutes before use to allow the drops to warm slightly.
2. Wash and dry hands.
3. Place the drop into the eye taking care not to touch the eye with the tip of the bottle.
4. Gently close your eyelids for one minute (do not squeeze the eye or blink). Gently press against the inner corner of your eye with your finger (over the tear duct) for 1-2 minutes. This helps stop side effects.



5. Use a clean tissue to wipe spillage from the eye if needed.
6. Wash hands with soap and water.

### **Possible side effects**

The most common side effects are in and around the eyes. These include:

- Stinging on instillation
- Itching
- Redness
- Irritation
- Blurry eye sight

### **Warnings**

Check with your eye doctor as soon as possible if you are having any problems using the drops or if you have side effects that worry you.

Check with your eye doctor immediately or go to the emergency department if you have eye, face or tongue swelling or shortness of breath.

### **Storage conditions and other information**

Acetylcysteine is not licensed for use as an eye drop. It has been used by ophthalmologists for many years with good results. If you would like more information about such unlicensed use your doctor will be happy to discuss this further.

These eye drops must be kept in the fridge, away from food.

These eye drops have a sulphur (rotten egg) like odour.

Do not use them after the expiry date.

### **Where to get this medicine**

These eye drops are not available in Australia and need to be prepared for you.

You need a prescription from your eye doctor for this medicine. You will need to pay the outpatient price. To order these drops you need to ring the pharmacy (Ph. 93827379).

The pharmacy at Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital can only provide these eye drops to patients that see Sydney Eye Hospital doctors in the outpatient clinics or their private rooms. Your eye doctor can advise you on where to get these drops made.

### **More information**

Ask the nurse at the clinic, your eye doctor or the pharmacist if you need more information. You may contact the Pharmacy Department, Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, **on (02) 9382 7379.**

