



Eye drops for glaucoma

There have been recent reports of **prescribing errors** with eye drops for glaucoma. Most of these relate to the similarity of names of some of the products. Examples of errors reported include:

- Prescribing **latanoprost** instead of **travoprost**
- Prescribing **latanoprost** instead of the fixed combination **latanoprost / timolol**
- Prescribing the fixed combination of **bimatoprost / timolol (Ganfort[®])** instead of the fixed combination of **brimonidine / timolol (Combigan[®])**
- Prescribing the fixed combination of **travoprost / timolol** instead of **travoprost**
- Prescribing **brinzolamide** instead of the fixed combination of **brinzolamide / timolol**

Primary care prescribers are therefore reminded that:

- there are a variety of eye drops (including fixed combination products) for glaucoma with similar names but with unique mechanisms of action
- some eye drops for glaucoma contain a beta blocker which may not be suitable for patients in whom beta blockers are contraindicated. Therefore, prescribers are urged to double check the patient's letter or discharge summary to ensure that a beta blocker-containing eye drop is what is intended.

If the treatment regimen is unclear please contact the Eye Treatment Centre, WSFT for advice.

Please see page 2 for a list of eye drops for glaucoma that are likely to be prescribed by ophthalmologists at WSFT.

Drug class	Drug name	Active ingredient
Beta-adrenoceptor blockers	Betaxolol	Betaxolol hydrochloride 0.25% and 0.5%
	Betoptic [®]	Betaxolol hydrochloride 0.25% and 0.5%
	Betagan [®]	Levobunolol hydrochloride 0.5%
	Timolol	Timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5%
	Tiopex [®]	Timolol maleate 1mg/g
	Timoptol [®] -LA	Timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5%
Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors	Brinzolamide	Brinzolamide 10mg/ml
	Azopt [®]	Brinzolamide 10mg/ml
	Dorzolamide	Dorzolamide hydrochloride 2%
	Trusopt [®]	Dorzolamide hydrochloride 2%
	Azarga [®]	Brinzolamide 1%/timolol (as maleate) 0.5%
	Simbrinza [®]	Brinzolamide 1%/brimonidine 0.2%
	Dorzolamide with timolol	Dorzolamide (hydrochloride) 2%/timolol (maleate) 0.5%
	Cosopt [®]	Dorzolamide (hydrochloride) 2%/timolol (maleate) 0.5%
Prostaglandin analogues	Latanoprost	Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml
	Monopost [®]	Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml
	Xalatan [®]	Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml
	Lumigan [®]	Bimatoprost 100microgram/ml
	Lumigan [®] (P/F)*	Bimatoprost 300microgram/ml
	Travatan [®]	Travoprost 40microgram/ml
Prostaglandin analogues/beta-blockers	DuoTrav [®]	Travoprost 40microgram/timolol (as maleate) 5mg
	Ganfort [®]	Bimatoprost 300microgram/timolol (as maleate) 5mg
	Xalacom [®]	Latanoprost 50micrograms/timolol (as maleate) 5mg
Alpha 2 agonists	Brimonidine	Brimonidine tartrate 0.2%
	Iopidine [®]	Apraclonidine (hydrochloride) 0.5% and 1%
	Combigan [®]	Brimonidine tartrate 0.2%/timolol 0.5%
Miotics	Minims [®] Pilocarpine	Pilocarpine nitrate 2%

*P/F: Preservative-free