



EYE DROPS FOR CATARACT PATIENTS

R. Doyle Stulting, MD, PhD

In order to achieve the best results, you will need to take three different types of drops before and after your cataract procedure. One is an antibiotic to prevent infection. Another is a steroid to reduce inflammation. The third is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) that also reduces inflammation but works in a different way than the steroid. We have selected one preferred medication from each of these categories on the basis of all currently available information to provide you with the best surgical outcome.

Often newer or more effective medications are more expensive than older ones. Unfortunately, we have no control over the price or insurance coverage of prescription drugs. Depending on your individual policy (or especially if you are paying out of pocket), some of these medications may seem rather costly. Also, the cost of medications may vary widely depending on where you purchase them. We encourage you to shop around, and don't forget about discount stores like Costco and Wal-Mart. Although we cannot solve the problems of health care financing, we can give you the opportunity to select generic substitutes for the preferred medications

You will be given a prescription that includes the preferred drugs, as well as the alternatives for two of the classes of drugs you will need to take. The third drug, prednisolone acetate 1% is already a generic, so there is no low-cost alternative to this drug. If you are cost-sensitive and wish to purchase substitute medications, please ask your pharmacist to fill your order with one or both of the less expensive alternatives. These older medications are similar to those on the preferred list, but they are not equivalent and, in your physician's opinion, not quite as effective as those on the preferred list. They also must be taken more frequently than the drugs on the preferred list. Your pharmacist will ensure you get one of each type of drug we prescribed. He or she can also answer your questions about medication pricing and insurance coverage.

Please understand that the preferred drugs have been selected because we believe they will optimize the results of your surgery. We are providing substitute medications only in response to requests for less expensive

prescription drugs. If you choose to substitute generic medications for those originally prescribed, you will be responsible for any adverse reaction or poor outcome that results from that choice.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your surgical coordinator.