

2 Dry eye conditions

Dry eye

08-Feb-2020

Description of condition

Dry eye presents as chronic soreness and inflammation of ocular surface associated with reduced or abnormal tear secretion (e.g. in Sjögren's syndrome). It often responds to tear replacement therapy in the form of eye drops (preferably preservative-free), eye ointment (used at night), or gels. Choice of preparation is based on the type of dry eye (e.g. aqueous-deficient or evaporative), symptoms, and patient preference.

Drug treatment

EvGr Hypromellose p. 1231 is the most frequently used treatment for tear deficiency in patients with mild dry eye.

Initially, it may need to be instilled frequently (e.g. hourly) for adequate symptom relief, then at a reduced frequency. **EvGr** Carbomers below and polyvinyl alcohol p. 1232 are suitable alternatives. The ability of carbomers below and polyvinyl alcohol to cling to the eye surface and their higher viscosity may help reduce frequency of application to 4 times daily. Carbomers below can be less tolerated than hypromellose due to their impact on vision.

EvGr Preservative-free tear replacement is preferred in cases of frequent and chronic application.

Ocular lubricants containing sodium hyaluronate p. 1233, hydroxypropyl guar, or carmellose sodium below can be used for moderate to severe dry eye following a suitable trial (6–8 weeks) of treatment options for mild dry eye.

Eye ointments containing a paraffin (e.g. liquid paraffin with white soft paraffin and wool alcohols p. 1232) can be used in addition to other options to lubricate the eye surface, especially in cases of recurrent corneal epithelial erosion.

They may cause temporary visual disturbance and are best suited for application before sleep. Ointments should not be used during contact lens wear.

OCULAR LUBRICANTS

Acetylcysteine

07-Feb-2017

INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Tear deficiency | Impaired or abnormal mucus production

▶ TO THE EYE

▶ Adult: Apply 3–4 times a day

• **SIDE-EFFECTS** Eye discomfort · eye redness

• **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: eye drops

Eye drops

EXCIPIENTS: May contain Benzalkonium chloride, disodium edetate

▶ **Ilube** (Rayner Pharmaceuticals Ltd)

Acetylcysteine 50 mg per 1 ml Ilube 5% eye drops | 10 ml **[PoM]**
£33.46 DT = £33.46

Carbomers

27-Mar-2020

(Polyacrylic acid)

INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Dry eyes including keratoconjunctivitis sicca, unstable tear film

▶ TO THE EYE

▶ Child: Apply 3–4 times a day or when required

▶ Adult: Apply 3–4 times a day or when required

• **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Synthetic high molecular weight polymers of acrylic acid cross-linked with either allyl ethers of sucrose or allyl ethers of pentaerythrityl.

• **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

Eye gel

EXCIPIENTS: May contain Benzalkonium chloride, cetrimide, disodium edetate

▶ **Blephagel** (Thea Pharmaceuticals Ltd)

Carbomer 3.6 mg per 1 gram Blephagel 0.36% eye gel preservative free | 30 gram £7.53

▶ **Liquivisc** (Thea Pharmaceuticals Ltd)

Carbomer 974P 2.5 mg per 1 gram Liquivisc 0.25% eye gel | 10 gram **[P]** £4.50 DT = £4.50

Eye drops

▶ **Artelac Nighttime** (Bausch & Lomb UK Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Artelac Nighttime 0.2% eye gel | 10 gram £2.96 DT = £2.80

▶ **Clinitas Carbomer** (Altacor Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Clinitas Carbomer 0.2% eye gel | 10 gram £1.49 DT = £2.80

▶ **GelTears** (Bausch & Lomb UK Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram GelTears 0.2% gel | 10 gram **[P]**
£2.80 DT = £2.80

▶ **Lumecare Long Lasting** (Medicom Healthcare Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Lumecare Carbomer 0.2% eye gel | 10 gram £1.53 DT = £2.80

▶ **Ocu-Lube Carbomer** (Sai-Meds Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Ocu-Lube Carbomer 0.2% eye gel 0.6ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £5.25 DT = £5.42

▶ **Viscotears** (Bausch & Lomb UK Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Viscotears 2mg/g liquid gel | 10 gram **[P]** £1.59 DT = £2.80

Viscotears 2mg/g eye gel 0.6ml unit dose | 30 unit dose **[P]** £5.42 DT = £5.42

▶ **Xailin** (Visufarma UK Ltd)

Carbomer 980 2 mg per 1 gram Xailin 0.2% eye gel | 10 gram
£3.35 DT = £2.80

Carmellose sodium

23-Mar-2020

INDICATIONS AND DOSE

Dry eye conditions

▶ TO THE EYE

▶ Child: Apply as required

▶ Adult: Apply as required

• **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Some preparations are contained units which are resealable and may be used for up to 12 hours.

• **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

Eye drops

▶ **Carmellose sodium (Non-proprietary)**

Carmellose 0.5% eye drops | 10 ml £7.49

Carmellose 1% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £3.00 DT = £3.00

Carmellose sodium 5 mg per 1 ml Carmellose 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £5.75 DT = £4.80

Ocu-Lube Carmellose 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £5.65 DT = £4.80

▶ **Carmellose** (Aspire Pharma Ltd, Medicom Healthcare Ltd)

PF Drops Carmellose 0.5% eye drops preservative free | 10 ml £7.49

PF Drops Carmellose 1% eye drops preservative free | 10 ml £7.49

Lumecare Advance Carmellose 0.5% eye drops | 10 ml £6.05

▶ **Carmize** (Aspire Pharma Ltd)

Carmize 1% eye drops | 10 ml £8.49

Carmize 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £3.00 DT = £3.00 | 60 unit dose £6.00

Carmize 0.5% eye drops | 10 ml £7.49

Carmellose sodium 5 mg per 1 ml Carmize 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free | 30 unit dose £5.75 DT = £4.80 | 90 unit dose £15.53