



## Cataract Eye Drop Instructions

**Eye Drops should be ready to be picked up at your pharmacy at least 9 days prior to surgery if you start them a week before, or within 24 hours after your nurse phone call from the Surgery Center.**

**Call 651-275-3112 for questions.**

**This is our Nurse Call Line. Leave a voice message, and someone will call you back within 24 hours or the next business day.**

**Lotemax GEL should be the LAST eye drop used when giving more than one at a time.**

**SHAKE ALL BOTTLES BEFORE USING  
USE EYE DROPS 5 MINUTES APART**

### **VIGAMOX** (Antibiotic)

- Start using **after** surgery. **DO NOT OPEN.**
- Use one (1) drop in operative eye three (3) times per day.
- Continue for two (2) weeks.

### **Ilevro** (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory)

- **Non-Diabetics:** **Start using at bedtime the day before surgery. Use until gone.**
- **Diabetics/High Risk or if instructed by your surgeon:** **Start using one (1) week prior to surgery.**
- Use one (1) drop in operative eye every day **once before bedtime.**
- **If Diabetic/High Risk or instructed by your surgeon:** **Refill this prescription after the first bottle is gone and then continue using the second bottle until it is gone.**

### **LOTEMAX Gel or DUREZOL** (Steroid anti-inflammatory)

- Start using **after** surgery. **Use the GEL 5 minutes after last eye drop.**
- **Non-Diabetics: LOTEMAX Gel**
  - Use one (1) drop to operative eye three (3) times per day.
- **Diabetics/High Risk or instructed by your surgeon: DUREZOL**
  - Use one (1) drop to operative eye four (4) times per day.
- Continue until gone.

## **BRING ALL EYE DROPS WITH YOU TO SURGERY AND TO ALL APPOINTMENTS**

If you have been using eye drops in the operative eye (for Glaucoma, etc), keep taking these drops as prescribed up to the day of surgery, but **DO NOT USE** these drops on the day of surgery. Continue taking all eye drops in the non-operative eye as you have been.

**\*NOTE** special instructions for **diabetics** or if it states **“instructed by your surgeon”**: your surgeon has prescribed different drops for you due to additional issues regarding your surgery or condition.

## A Note From Your Associated Eye Care Surgeon

We have carefully chosen your post-operative eye drop regimen to best minimize the likelihood of the types of problems that can cause permanent vision loss. We are very sensitive to the fact that these eye drops are expensive, but that is because they are the best that are currently available. In our experience, the generic versions of these eye drops are not as good, and are highly variable in their effect compared to the name brand versions (despite what your pharmacist may tell you). We will not compromise your visual result or risk your future vision by encouraging the use of generic eye drops.

For this reason, please fill your prescriptions and follow the instructions exactly as written. I hope you understand, but spending an extra \$100-\$200 now can potentially save you significant vision problems over the remainder of your lifetime.

**If generic drops are used because of significant cost restraints, the following are acceptable substitutions:**

### **Ofloxacin** (Antibiotic Substitute)

- Start using after surgery.
- Use one (1) drop in operative eye four (4) times per day.
- Continue for two (2) weeks.

### **Diclofenac Sodium** (Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Substitute)

- This drop will likely sting upon instillation. This is normal.
- Non-Diabetics: Start using one (1) day prior to surgery. **(Use MORNING of Surgery)**
- Diabetics or if instructed by your surgeon: start using one (1) week prior to surgery.
- Use one (1) drop in operative eye four (4) times per day
- Continue until gone.

### **Prednisolone Acetate** (Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Substitute)

- Start using after surgery
- Use one (1) drop to operative eye four (4) times per day
- Continue until gone.