Fucithalmic®
Fusidic Acid Eye Drops 1% (10 mg/g)

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet contains information about Fucithalmic® Eye Drops. Please read it carefully before you start to take your medicine. Keep it, as you may want to read it again. The information in this leaflet answers some common questions. Your doctor or pharmacist has more information. This leaflet is not intended to take the place of discussion with your doctor.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if there is anything that is worrying you or you do not understand.

What is Fucithalmic® used for?

Fucithalmic® eye drops contain an antibiotic (called "fusidic acid"). This antibiotic is used to treat infections on the surface of the eye.

Examples of such infections are:

- Inflammation of the white of the eye, caused by bacteria (called "conjunctivitis" or "red eye").
- Sty (infection of a hair follicle in the eyelid)
- Inflammation of the eyelid (called "blepharitis")
- Inflammation of the cornea, which is the clear area in the centre of the eye. This is called "keratitis" and causes discomfort in the eye.

Fucithalmic® is effective only against those bacteria which fusidic acid can kill. Do not use Fucithalmic® for other eye conditions, unless your doctor has told you to.

Fucithalmic® eye drops contain the active ingredient, fusidic acid, (which is a very mild acid) in a gel. This gel gradually releases the fusidic acid. Fucithalmic® gel becomes clear liquid in the tear fluid of your eye. This clear liquid helps prevent blurring of your vision.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you use Fucithalmic® eye drops

Do not use Fucithalmic® if:

- You are wearing contact lenses. Contact lenses must **NOT** be worn during treatment with Fucithalmic®. Also, do not wear contact lenses until 24 hours after the end of your Fucithalmic® treatment. If you wear contact lenses, ingredients in Fucithalmic® eye drops may scratch your contact lenses or your cornea. Ingredients in Fucithalmic® eye drops may also discolour soft contact lenses.
- You have an allergy to Fucithalmic® eye drops, fusidic acid or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.
- The eye drops from the container have changed colour. Fucithalmic® gel from the container is white to off-white; Fucithalmic gel becomes a clear liquid in the tear fluid of your eye.
- The expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed. If you use this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work.
- It is more than 28 days after you first opened the tube.

If you are not sure whether you should start using Fucithalmic® eye drops, contact your doctor.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else. Your doctor has prescribed it specifically for you and your condition.

Before you start to use Fucithalmic® eye drops

Tell your doctor if:

- You have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.
- You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
- You are breast-feeding or planning to breastfeed.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Fucithalmic® eye drops.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are taking Fucithalmic® eye drops.

Some medicines may interfere with Fucithalmic® eye drops.

How to use Fucithalmic®

Follow your doctor's instructions about Fucithalmic® eye drops, with regards to:

- How much to use *and*
- When to use the drops *and*
- How to use them.

How much to take

The recommended dosage is one drop of Fucithalmic® into each eye.

When to use it

Fucithalmic® should be used twice a day (at approximately 12 hour intervals).

How to apply Fucithalmic® eye drops

- Open the eye, tilt the head backwards, and look towards the ceiling.
- Gently pull down the lower eyelid to form a "pouch".
- Hold the tube near one eye. Do not let the tip of the tube touch the eyelids or lashes.
- Squeeze one drop of Fucithalmic® into the "pouch".
- Repeat for the other eye.
- Close both eyes briefly.
- Do not rub the eyes
- For a short time, do not blink.

How long to use Fucithalmic® eye drops

Keep using Fucithalmic® for at least 48 hours after your eye appears to have returned to normal.

Do not use your tube of Fucithalmic® if it has been opened for longer than 28 days. Throw away your tube of Fucithalmic® 28 days after it is first opened.

If you forget, or you miss, a dose of Fucithalmic® eye drops

- If you forget your dose of Fucithalmic®, apply it as soon as you remember.
- If you miss a whole day, just continue to apply your normal dose the next day.
- Do not apply a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

While you are using Fucithalmic® eye drops

Things you must do

- If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or they become worse, tell your doctor.
- If you develop a skin rash, itching or swelling of the face, lips or tongue tell your doctor immediately, as you may be having an allergic reaction to Fucithalmic®. Swelling of the face, lips or tongue may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing.
- If you become pregnant while you are using Fucithalmic® eye drops tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Things you must not do

- Do not give Fucithalmic® eye drops to anyone else, even if they appear to have the same condition as you.
- Do not stop treatment for at least 48 hours after the affected eye/s appear to have returned to normal.
- Do not use Fucithalmic® eye drops to treat any other complaints. This includes eye infections, which are not caused by bacteria.
- Do not use your tube of Fucithalmic® if it has been opened for longer than 28 days.

Things to be careful of

- There is no information on whether Fucithalmic® eye drops affects the ability to drive or operate machinery. However, if you have blurred vision after applying the eye drops, do not drive or operate machinery.

In case of an overdose

If you take too much (overdose)

If you think that you or anyone else may have used too much Fucithalmic®, contact your doctor or go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital, or call the New Zealand National Poison Centre on 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Side effects

Like other medicines, Fucithalmic® eye drops can cause some side effects. In deciding to prescribe Fucithalmic® for you, your doctor has weighed the risk of taking Fucithalmic® against the benefit it is expected to have for you. Side effects not listed in this leaflet may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Fucithalmic® eye drops.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

The following unwanted effects have been observed with Fucithalmic®. If they occur, they are most likely to be minor and temporary.

- Immediate mild stinging or burning sensation in the eye is often a side effect of Fucithalmic®. Usually this stops quite quickly.

Less frequent

- Tearing or watering of the eyes on application.
- A temporary blurring of vision. This usually stops quickly as Fucithalmic® gel becomes a clear liquid in the tear fluid of your eye.
- Itching and/or puffiness of the eyes

Rare

- Irritation and/or inflammation of the eye or the surrounding skin including swelling, redness, itching.

Just as for other medicines, some people may be allergic to Fucithalmic®. If any of the following happen, seek urgent medical help immediately. You may be having a severe allergic reaction to Fucithalmic®.

- you develop a skin rash
- itchiness or swelling of the face, lips or tongue, or difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

Tell your doctor:

- if you notice any other effects and they bother you *or*
- if you have any medical problems whilst taking Fucithalmic®.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible adverse effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using Fucithalmic®

How to store Fucithalmic®

Keep your Fucithalmic® eye drops in the original packaging.

Store Fucithalmic® in a cool dry place, below 25°C. Do not store Fucithalmic® in the bathroom or near the sink, or in a car on a hot day.

Disposal

Throw the tube of Fucithalmic® away 28 days after opening it.

Keep Fucithalmic® where children cannot reach it.

Product description

What it looks like

Fucithalmic® eye drops is a white to off-white gel. Fucithalmic® gel becomes clear liquid in the tear fluid of your eye.

List of ingredients

Fucithalmic® eye drops contain: fusidic acid 1%, mannitol, benzalkonium chloride, carbomer, disodium edentate, sodium hydroxide and water for injection.

Further information

Fucithalmic® is only available if prescribed by a doctor.

Fucithalmic® is available in a 5 gram tube.

This is not all the available information about Fucithalmic®.

If you have any more questions or are unsure about anything, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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