

# TETRACAINE (amethocaine) (eye)

<b>Indication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To produce local anaesthesia in the eye<sup>1,2</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>OPHTHALMIC</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drops: 1%</li> </ul>
	<b>Dosage<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One drop per eye</li> </ul>
	<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required</li> </ul>
	<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold eye lids apart and apply directly onto eye               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wait 5 minutes before instillation of other ophthalmic drops to avoid washout</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Special considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect anaesthetised eye from dust and bacterial contamination<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Onset of action 10–20 seconds<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Duration of action 10–20 minutes<sup>1</sup>, lasting up to 1 hour<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required</li> </ul>	
<b>Compatibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil known</li> </ul>	
<b>Incompatibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil known</li> </ul>	
<b>Interactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sulfonamides<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>Stability<sup>4</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refrigerate 2–8 °C. Protect from light</li> <li>Preservative free, discard after single use</li> </ul>	
<b>Side effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nervous: stinging<sup>3,4</sup>, local burning<sup>3,4</sup>, keratitis<sup>3-5</sup>, allergic conjunctivitis<sup>3,4</sup></li> <li>Chronic use can damage the cornea leading to severe keratitis and corneal opacification<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local anaesthetic<sup>4</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reversibly blocking nerve propagation and conduction<sup>5</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Abbreviations</b>	Nil	
<b>Keywords</b>	amethocaine, amethocaine hydrochloride eye drops, eye examination, local anaesthetic, ophthalmic, tetracaine	



The Queensland Clinical Guideline *Neonatal Medicines* is integral to and should be read in conjunction with this monograph. Refer to the disclaimer. Destroy all printed copies of this monograph after use.

## References

1. Australian Medicines Handbook Children's Dosing Companion. Tetracaine (amethocaine). [Internet]. Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; July 2024 [cited 2024 August 7]. Available from: <http://amhonline.amh.net.au>.
2. British National Formulary for Children (BNFC) online. Tetracaine (amethocaine). [Internet]: Royal Pharmaceutical Society; November 2021 [cited 2024 August 7]. Available from: <https://www.medicinescomplete.com>.
3. MIMS Online. Tetracaine (amethocaine) hydrochloride. Minims amethocaine eye drops. [Internet]: MIMS Australia; June 2020 [cited 2024 August 7]. Available from: <https://www.mimsonline.com.au>.
4. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Tetracaine (amethocaine) hydrochloride eye drops. [Internet]. Canberra: Australian Government; April 2020 [cited 2024 August 7]. Available from: <https://www.tga.gov.au>.
5. IBM Micromedex®. Tetracaine. In: IBM Micromedex® (electronic version). IBM Watson Health, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. 2023 [cited 2024 August 7]. Available from: <http://micromedexsolutions.com>.

## Document history

ID number	Effective	Review	Summary of updates
NMedQ19.029-V1-R24	Oct 2019	Oct 2024	Endorsed by Queensland Neonatal Services Advisory Group (QNSAG)
NMedQ24.029-V2-R29	20/08/2024	20/08/2029	Full review: Endorsed by QNSAG <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No change to dosing or frequency</li></ul>

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