

iMedix: Your Personal Health Advisor.

Careprost

Careprost is an ophthalmic solution containing the active ingredient bimatoprost. It is primarily used to treat high eye pressure in glaucoma and ocular hypertension. It is also widely used for its cosmetic side effect of promoting longer, thicker, and darker eyelashes.

- **ActiveIngredient:** Bimatoprost
 - **DosageForm:** Ophthalmic Solution (Eye Drops)
 - **Dosage:** 0.03% (0.3 mg/mL)
 - **Indications:** Reduction elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension.
 - **Manufacturer:** Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
 - **Storage:** Store between 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F). Keep away from light. Ensure the bottle is tightly sealed after use.
 - **Market Price:**
 - **Drug Status:** Prescription Only
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Description

What is Careprost (Bimatoprost)? Careprost is a prescription eye drop solution whose active ingredient is bimatoprost, a synthetic prostaglandin analog. It has two distinct uses: a medical treatment for certain eye conditions and a cosmetic application to enhance eyelash growth. As a medication, it is FDA-approved to reduce elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. By increasing the outflow of aqueous humor from the eye, it helps prevent optic nerve damage. Its cosmetic use stems from a well-documented side effect. Bimatoprost can stimulate the growth phase of eyelash hair follicles, leading to longer, thicker, and darker lashes. Careprost is a generic version of the branded products Lumigan (for glaucoma) and Latisse (for eyelash growth). For more on the safety and efficacy of generic medications, see our resource on generic medicines.

General Instructions

How to Use Careprost Eye Drops Correct application is critical for effectiveness and to minimize side effects. The method differs slightly based on whether you are using it for glaucoma or eyelash enhancement.

For Glaucoma Treatment Wash your hands thoroughly. Tilt your head back and gently pull down your lower eyelid to form a pouch. Hold the dropper tip close to the eye without touching it. Instill one drop into the pouch. Close your eye gently and apply light pressure to the inner corner (near the nose) for 1-2 minutes. This minimizes systemic absorption. Do not blink or rinse the eye immediately after.

For Eyelash Growth Ensure your face is clean, makeup is removed, and contact lenses are out. Using the sterile applicator provided, place one drop of solution on it. Carefully apply the solution in a thin line along the skin of the upper eyelid at the base of the eyelashes. Apply only to the upper lash line. Do not apply to the lower lash line. Blot any excess solution that gets into the eye or onto the cheek. Dispose of the applicator after a single use. Reusing it can cause eye infections. For both uses, replace the bottle cap tightly immediately after use. Do not let the tip touch any surface to avoid contamination. Understanding the instructions for any medication is key. Learn more about how to read your medicine's information.

Side Effects

Side Effects of Careprost Like all medications, Careprost can cause side effects. These range from common, temporary reactions to more serious, potentially permanent changes. It is helpful to understand the spectrum of possible side effects.

Common and Serious Side Effects of Careprost (Bimatoprost)

Frequency Side Effects Notes and Actions

Very Common Eye redness (conjunctival hyperemia) Itching of the eyes Growth and darkening of eyelashes (desired cosmetic effect) Darkening of the skin on the eyelids These are often mild. Eye redness may decrease with continued use.

Common Dry eyes, watery eyes, or eye irritation Sensation of a foreign body in the eye Eyelid skin darkening Mild burning or stinging upon application Usually temporary. Consult your doctor if persistent or bothersome.

Potentially Serious / Permanent Permanent darkening of the iris (eye color change): Brown pigment may increase, turning hazel, green, or blue-grey eyes browner over months to years. This change is likely irreversible. Eyelid recession or sunken appearance (deepening of the eyelid sulcus) Periorbital fat atrophy (loss of fat around the eye) Hair growth on skin outside the intended application area Macular edema (swelling in the central retina) – risk is higher in patients with a history of eye inflammation or after cataract surgery. Severe eye inflammation (uveitis, iritis) Report any significant changes in eye appearance, vision (blurriness), or pain to your doctor immediately. Iris darkening requires ongoing monitoring.

Uses

What is Careprost Used For? Careprost (bimatoprost ophthalmic solution) has distinct medical and cosmetic applications, both rooted in the pharmacological action of the prostaglandin analog.

Medical Use: Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension The primary FDA-approved medical use is to lower intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. High IOP is a major risk factor for glaucoma, which can lead to optic nerve damage and vision loss. Bimatoprost works by increasing the outflow of the eye's fluid (aqueous humor) through the uveoscleral pathway.

Cosmetic Use: Eyelash Enhancement The cosmetic use of Careprost for eyelashes is its most popular application. Bimatoprost extends the anagen (growth) phase of the eyelash hair cycle and increases the number of hairs in the growth phase. This results in: Longer eyelashes Thicker eyelashes (increased hair diameter) Darker eyelashes (increased melanin content) It is important to understand that this is an "off-label" use for the generic Careprost, while the branded equivalent Latisse is specifically FDA-approved for this purpose. The effects are not permanent; if treatment is stopped, eyelashes will gradually return to their original appearance over several weeks to months.

Safety advice

Interactions Alcohol:

- Safe if prescribed
- There is no known direct interaction between topical bimatoprost (eye drops) and alcohol. However, alcohol consumption does not affect the medication's primary action on eye pressure or eyelash growth.

Interactions Other Medications:

- Consult your doctor
- Inform your ophthalmologist about all other eye drops you are using. Using multiple prostaglandin analogs together is not recommended. A minimum 5-minute interval should be observed between instilling different types of eye drops to prevent washing one out with the other.

Special Groups Pregnancy:

- Consult your doctor

- The safety of bimatoprost during pregnancy has not been established. Prostaglandin analogs may have theoretical risks. It should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. This is a crucial consideration for cosmetic use. For general guidance, see [medication safety in pregnancy](#).

Special Groups Breastfeeding:

- Use with caution
- It is unknown if bimatoprost is excreted in human breast milk following topical ocular administration. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when administering to a nursing woman, especially for cosmetic purposes.

Special Groups Elderly:

- Safe if prescribed
- No overall differences in safety or effectiveness have been observed between elderly and younger adult patients. However, greater sensitivity in some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

Special Groups Children:

- Consult your doctor
- The safety and effectiveness of bimatoprost in pediatric patients have not been established. It is not recommended for use in children, particularly for cosmetic purposes.

Effects on Activities Driving:

- Use with caution
- Bimatoprost may cause temporary blurred vision or other visual disturbances immediately after instillation. Patients should not drive or use machinery until their vision has cleared.

Effects on Activities Operating Machinery:

- Use with caution
- The same caution as for driving applies. Wait until any temporary blurriness or watering of the eyes has resolved before engaging in tasks that require clear vision.

Concerns

Important Safety Concerns and Considerations

Permanent Changes to Eye Appearance The most significant concern with long-term use of bimatoprost is permanent darkening of the iris. This increase in brown pigment is gradual and may not be noticeable for months or years. It is more likely in individuals with mixed-color eyes (e.g., green-brown, blue-brown, yellow-brown). The change is likely irreversible even after stopping the medication. Eyelid skin darkening is also common and may be reversible upon discontinuation.

Periorbital Tissue Changes Bimatoprost can cause changes in the fat tissues around the eye, leading to a sunken appearance of the eye (deepening of the eyelid sulcus) and loss of periorbital fat. These changes may be permanent and are a significant cosmetic concern for users seeking eyelash enhancement.

Risk of Contamination and Infection As an ophthalmic solution applied near the eye, sterility is paramount. Using contaminated droppers or applicators can lead to serious eye infections. Always use the single-use applicators provided (for cosmetic use) and do not let the bottle tip touch your eye, fingers, or any other surface.

Unintended Hair Growth If the solution repeatedly drips or is applied onto the skin of the cheeks or other areas, it can stimulate hair growth in those unintended areas. Careful application along the lash line and blotting excess solution is essential to prevent this.

Underlying Eye Conditions Patients with a history of eye inflammation (uveitis, iritis), macular edema, or those who have had recent cataract surgery are at higher risk of developing complications like macular edema. A thorough eye examination by a doctor is necessary before starting treatment.

Warnings

Critical Warnings for Careprost Use Eye Color Change Bimatoprost can gradually change the eye color by increasing the amount of brown pigment in the iris. This change occurs slowly and may be permanent. Patients should be informed of this possibility, especially those with mixed-color irises. Regular monitoring of the iris is advised. Potential for Eyelid Changes and Sunken Eyes Treatment may cause changes to the tissues around the eye, including deepening of the eyelid sulcus and recession of the eyelid. Patients should be examined regularly for these changes, and treatment discontinuation should be considered if they are observed. Contamination Risk To avoid contamination, do not touch the dropper tip to any surface, including the eye, fingers, or countertop. Contaminated solutions can cause serious eye damage and lead to vision loss. Use with Contact Lenses Careprost contains benzalkonium chloride, a preservative that can be absorbed by soft contact lenses. Contact lenses should be removed prior to application and may be reinserted 15 minutes after instilling the drops. Systemic Absorption Bimatoprost is absorbed through the ocular tissues and can have systemic effects. Applying pressure to the tear duct (punctal occlusion) for 1-2 minutes after instillation for glaucoma reduces systemic absorption and may minimize side effects.

Dosage

Careprost Dosage Information The dosage and application method differ based on the intended use. The following are general guidelines; always follow your doctor's or the product's specific instructions. Careprost (Bimatoprost) Dosage Guidelines Purpose Standard Dosage Application Method & Key Notes Glaucoma / Ocular Hypertension One drop in the affected eye(s) once daily, in the evening. Apply directly into the eye. Do not exceed one drop daily, as more frequent administration may lessen the pressure-lowering effect. Use consistently at the same time each day. Eyelash Growth (Cosmetic) One small drop applied to the skin of the upper eyelid margin once daily. Using the sterile applicator, apply carefully along the base of the upper eyelashes only. Do not apply to the lower lash line. Apply in the evening; effects are typically seen after 4-8 weeks, with full results at 12-16 weeks. Important Administration Notes Missed Dose (Glaucoma): If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with the regular schedule. Do not apply a double dose to make up for a missed one. Missed Dose (Eyelashes): Resume the normal schedule the next evening. Do not apply extra to catch up. Discontinuation: For glaucoma, do not stop without consulting your doctor. For eyelashes, growth will revert to the original state several weeks to months after stopping.

Interactions

Drug Interactions with Careprost Careprost is a topical medication with minimal systemic absorption when used correctly, so significant drug-drug interactions are uncommon. However, local interactions with other eye medications are important. Notable Interactions for Careprost (Bimatoprost) Interacting Substance Effect of Interaction Recommendation Other Prostaglandin Analog Eye Drops (e.g., latanoprost, travoprost, tafluprost) Using multiple drugs from the same class is not additive for lowering eye pressure and increases the risk and severity of side effects (e.g., iris darkening, periorbital changes). Concomitant use is not recommended. Your ophthalmologist will typically choose one prostaglandin analog. Other Topical Eye Medications If instilled in the eye too close together, one drop can wash out the other, reducing effectiveness. If using multiple eye drops, wait at least 5 minutes between applications. Your doctor can advise on the optimal order. Benzalkonium Chloride (Preservative) Careprost contains this preservative, which can cause eye irritation and is absorbed by soft contact lenses. Remove soft contact lenses before application and wait at least 15 minutes before reinserting them. Always inform your eye doctor about all medications and supplements you are using, including over-the-counter products.

FAQs

- **Is Careprost the same as Latisse?**

Yes, in terms of active ingredient. Both contain bimatoprost. Latisse is the brand name product specifically FDA-approved and marketed for eyelash growth. **Careprost is a generic version**, often more affordable, that contains the same active ingredient at the same concentration (0.03%). The main differences are branding, price, and packaging (Latisse includes specific sterile applicators).

- **How long until I see results on my eyelashes?**

When used consistently for cosmetic purposes, initial changes (longer lashes) may be noticeable in about **4 to 8 weeks**. Full results (thicker, darker, longer lashes) are typically achieved after **12 to 16 weeks** of nightly application.

- **Are the eyelash effects permanent?**

No. The effects are reversible. If you stop using Careprost, your eyelashes will gradually return to their previous length, thickness, and color over a period of several weeks to months.

- **Can I use Careprost if I wear contact lenses?**

Yes, but you must remove your soft contact lenses before applying the drops. You can reinsert the lenses **15 minutes after** application. This is because the solution contains benzalkonium chloride, which can be absorbed by the lenses and irritate the eye.

- **Where can I buy Careprost safely?**

Careprost is a prescription medication in many countries. It should be obtained with a valid prescription from a licensed pharmacy. Be extremely cautious when purchasing online. Only use reputable pharmacies that require a prescription, as counterfeit or non-sterile products pose a serious risk of eye infection and damage. Review our guide on [buying medicines online safely](#).

Other Details

Additional Information Important Note on Cosmetic Use While Careprost is effective for enhancing eyelashes, it is crucial to remember it is a prescription medication with potential side effects, some of which are permanent. A consultation with a healthcare professional, ideally an ophthalmologist or dermatologist, is recommended before starting cosmetic use to assess individual risks, especially regarding eye color change and periorbital tissue changes. **Reporting Side Effects** If you experience a side effect, especially a serious one like severe eye pain, vision changes, or signs of an allergic reaction, report it to your doctor. You are also encouraged to report adverse drug events to your national health authority (e.g., the FDA in the United States).

References

References and Medical Sources The information on this page is compiled from reputable medical sources and prescribing information. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Latisse (bimatoprost ophthalmic solution) 0.03% Prescribing Information. [Updated 2020]. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2011/021275s0221bl.pdf MedlinePlus. Bimatoprost Ophthalmic. U.S. National Library of Medicine; [Updated 2022]. <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a602030.html> American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Eye drop medicines are helpful in treating glaucoma. [Reviewed 2023]. <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/glaucoma-eyedrop-medicine> Drugs.com. Bimatoprost Ophthalmic Professional Monograph. Drugs.com; [Updated 2024]. <https://www.drugs.com/mtm/bimatoprost-ophthalmic.html>

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