

Bimatoprost ophthalmic solution

What is this medicine used for?

This medication is used to treat patients with not enough or inadequate eyelashes. Bimatoprost makes the eyelashes more noticeable by causing more eyelashes to grow and making them longer, thicker, and darker. Bimatoprost is similar to a natural chemical in the body (prostaglandin).

The main use of this medication, however, is in the treatment of high pressure inside the eye due to glaucoma (open-angle type) or other eye diseases (e.g., ocular hypertension).

How should I use this medicine?

The recommended dosage is one application nightly.

The solution is intended for **use on the skin of the upper eyelid margins at the base of the eyelashes only. DO NOT APPLY** to the lower eyelid or in your eye.

To apply this medication, first wash your hands and face. Remove any makeup and contact lenses. Contact lenses may be reinserted 15 minutes after applying this medication.

Holding the applicator horizontally, place one drop of the solution on the area of the applicator closest to the tip but not on the tip. Then immediately draw the applicator carefully across the skin of the upper eyelid margin at the base of the eyelashes (where the eyelashes meet the skin) going from the inner part of your lash line to the outer part.

Blot any excess solution beyond the eyelid margin. Dispose of the applicator after one use.

Repeat for the opposite upper eyelid margin using a new applicator. This helps minimize any potential for contamination from one eyelid to another.

Bimatoprost solution is an ophthalmic drug product. It is not expected to cause harm if it gets into the eye proper. Do not attempt to rinse your eye in this situation.

Do not allow the tip of the bottle or applicator to contact surrounding structures, fingers, or any other unintended surface in order to avoid contamination by common bacteria known to cause infections.

Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, use it at the same time each evening. Do not use more of this medication than recommended. Using more will not make this medication work faster. It may take up to 2 months before the full benefits of using this medication are seen.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up. Just apply the solution the next evening.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor:

- eye redness / discomfort / itching / dryness
- eyelid redness

Consult your doctor as soon as possible if any of these additional effects occur, as they may indicate more serious side effects:

- allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, severe dizziness, rash, itching, swelling)
- eye pain
- suspected eye infection (discharge, unusual redness, swelling of eyes)
- rapid vision changes (such as loss of vision)

Bimatoprost use may cause darkening of the eyelid skin which may be reversible after several weeks to months.

Bimatoprost use may also cause increased brown pigmentation of the colored part of the eye (iris) which is likely to be permanent.

It is possible that the effects between your two sets of eyelashes may not be the same. There may be differences in eyelash length, thickness, fullness, color, number or direction of growth. If any of these occur, talk to your doctor.

What precautions should I take?

Inform your doctor if you have a medical history, especially of eye pressure problems (such as glaucoma), and other eye problems; if you are allergic to this medication or to similar drugs (such as latanoprost, travoprost), or to the preservative benzalkonium chloride; or if you have any other allergies.

Women who are pregnant, intending to conceive or are breastfeeding should inform the doctor before using the medicine.

It is possible for hair growth to occur in other areas of your skin that bimatoprost frequently touches. Any excess solution outside the upper eyelid margin should be blotted with a tissue or other absorbent material to reduce the chance of this from happening.

If you stop using bimatoprost, your eyelashes are expected to return to their previous appearance over several weeks to months.

If you are having your eye pressure tested, tell the testing personnel (such as optometrist or ophthalmologist) that you are using this medication.

How do I store this medicine?

Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children.