

Class

Local Anesthetic

Pharmacologic Properties

Tetracaine is an ophthalmic solution that anesthetizes the eyes. The onset of anesthesia usually begins within 20 seconds and lasts up to 15 minutes.

Indications

- In the field, tetracaine is intended for use in the patient who is unable to cooperate with you in adequately flushing the eye(s) due to discomfort or pain. If flushing can be accomplished easily, tetracaine may not be needed.

Contraindications

- Allergy to any topical anesthetic.

Precautions

- Do not use the solution if it contains crystals, or if it is cloudy or discolored. For topical ophthalmic use only. Not for injection. The patient should be advised not to touch or rub the eye(s) until the effect of the anesthesia has worn off.

Dosage and Administration**Adult**

- One or two drops in the affected eye as a topical anesthetic.

Pediatric

- Contraindicated in ages less than 8 years of age, unless approved by MCP.
- One or two drops in the affected eye as a topical anesthetic.