

# **P.V. CARPINE®**

*Pilocarpine hydrochloride*

## **Consumer Medicine Information**

### **What is in this leaflet**

This leaflet answers some common questions about P.V.CARPINE® eye drops. It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.** You may need to read it again.

### **What are P.V.CARPINE® eye drops**

The name of your medicine is P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

The active ingredient is called pilocarpine hydrochloride.

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are for use in the eyes only. They should not be taken by mouth.

### **What P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are used for**

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are used to lower raised pressure in the eye and to treat glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a condition in which the pressure of fluid in the eye may be high. However, some people with glaucoma may have normal eye pressure.

Glaucoma is usually caused by a build up of the fluid which flows through the eye. This build up occurs because the fluid drains out of your eye more slowly than it is being pumped in. Since new fluid continues to enter the eye, joining the fluid already there, the pressure continues to rise. This raised pressure may damage the back of the eye resulting in gradual loss of sight. Damage can progress so slowly that the person is not aware of this gradual loss of sight. Sometimes even normal eye pressure is associated with damage to the back of the eye.

There are usually no symptoms of glaucoma. The only way of knowing that you have glaucoma is to have your eye pressure, optic nerve and visual field checked by an eye specialist or optometrist. If glaucoma is not treated it can lead to serious problems, including total blindness. In fact, untreated glaucoma is one of the most common causes of blindness.

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops lower the pressure in the eye(s) by allowing more fluid to drain out of your eye(s).

Although P.V.CARPINE® eye drops help control your condition, they will not cure it.

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are only available with a doctor's prescription from pharmacies.

Your doctor may have prescribed P.V.CARPINE® eye drops for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why P.V.CARPINE® eye drops have been prescribed for you.

For more information about glaucoma, contact Glaucoma Australia Inc (telephone 1800 500 880).

### **Before you use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops**

#### ***When you must not use it***

Do not use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops if:

1. you have an allergy to pilocarpine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
2. you have been diagnosed with a condition known as iritis, an inflammation of the coloured part of the eye.
3. you have a certain type of glaucoma called "pupillary block glaucoma", a condition

that prevents normal flow of fluid through the pupil.

4. you have or have had a detached retina.
5. the seal around the cap is broken
6. the bottle/packaging shows signs of tampering
7. the product does not look quite right
8. the expiry date on the bottle has passed.

If you use this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work effectively.

**Do not put the eye drops into your eye(s) while you are wearing soft contact lenses.** The preservative in P.V.CARPINE® eye drops (benzalkonium chloride) may be deposited in soft contact lenses. You can put your soft contact lenses back into your eyes 15 minutes after you have used P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

It is not known if P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are safe and useful for children.

### ***Before you start to use it***

You must tell your doctor if you are:

- allergic to any medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

- breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed

Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops when breast-feeding.

- pregnant or planning to become pregnant

Like most medicines, P.V.CARPINE® eye drops should not be used during pregnancy unless your doctor specifically tells you to.

Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops during pregnancy.

- suffer from any breathing difficulties or lung problems eg bronchial asthma

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

**Do not use in children unless specifically directed to by your doctor.**

### ***Taking other medicines***

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medication, including medicines, creams, ointments or lotions that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

These include:

- Atropine and related compounds
- Other medicines or eye drops used to treat glaucoma
- Cyclopentolate

The above medicines may either reduce the effectiveness of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops, reduce its own effectiveness and/or react with P.V.CARPINE® eye drops resulting in untoward or sometimes dangerous side effects.

This list is not exhaustive. Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

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### **How to use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops**

#### ***How much to use***

Your doctor will tell you how many drops you need to use each day. Use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops only as prescribed by your doctor.

The usual dosage of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops is 1 to 2 drops, (2) two to (4) four times a day.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully. They may differ from the information given in this leaflet.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about the dose of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops that your doctor has prescribed.

Use P.V.CARPINE® eye drops every day, at about the same time each day, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Using your eye drops at the same time each day will have the best effect on your eye pressure. It will also help you remember when to use the eye drops.

After using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops, wait at least 5 minutes before putting any other eye drops in your eye(s).

If you are being changed from one eye drop to another, follow your doctor's instructions carefully as to when to stop the old drops and when to start the new drops.

### ***How to use it***

You may find it easier to put drops in your eye while you are sitting or lying down.

**If you are wearing soft contact lenses, remove them before putting the drops in your eye.**

To open a new bottle of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops first tear off the protective seal from the bottle. The contents are sterile if the seal is intact.

The seal will break and you can pull it off and then throw it away.

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Remove the bottle cap.
3. Hold the bottle upside down in one hand between your thumb and forefinger or index finger.
4. Using your other hand, gently pull down your lower eyelid to form a pouch or pocket.
5. Tilt your head back and look up.
6. Put the tip of the bottle close to your lower eyelid. Do not let it touch your eye.
7. Release one drop into the pouch or pocket formed between your eye and eyelid by gently squeezing the bottle.
8. Close your eye. Do not blink or rub your eye.
9. While your eye is closed, place your index finger against the inside corner of your eye and press against your nose for about two minutes. This will help to stop the medicine from draining through the tear duct to the nose and throat, from where it can be absorbed into other parts of your body.

Ask your doctor for more specific instructions on this technique.

10. Replace the cap, sealing it tightly.
11. Wash your hands again with soap and water to remove any residue.

Wait 15 minutes before replacing your contact lenses.

Be careful not to touch the dropper tip against your eye, eyelid or anything else to avoid contaminating the eye drops.

### ***How long to use it***

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops help control your condition but do not cure it. Therefore P.V.CARPINE® eye drops must be used every day. Continue using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops for as long as your doctor prescribes.

For some people P.V.CARPINE® eye drops may have been prescribed for a short time before or after eye surgery.

### ***If you forget to use it***

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and use your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, use the drops as soon as you remember, and then go back to using them as you would normally.

If you are not sure whether to skip the dose, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not use double the amount to make up for the dose that you missed.

***If you use too much (overdose)***

If you accidentally put several drops in your eye(s), immediately rinse your eye(s) with warm water.

If you think that you or anyone else may have swallowed any or all of the contents of a bottle of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops, immediately telephone your doctor or **Poisons Information Centre (Australia: telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital.**

**Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. Also report any other medicine or alcohol which has been taken. You may need urgent medical attention.**

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**While you are using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops**

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***Things you must do***

Have your eye pressure checked when your doctor says, to make sure P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are helping your condition.

**Tell your doctor if you develop an eye infection, receive an eye injury, or have eye surgery.**

Your doctor may tell you to use a new container of P.V. CARPINE® eye drops because of possible contamination of the old one.

If you are about to start any new medicine tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

Contact your doctor immediately if you suspect that you may be pregnant.

If you wear soft contact lenses, remove them before using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops. Leave your lenses out for at least 15 minutes after putting in the eye drops.

Tell your doctor if your condition gets worse or does not get better while using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

***Things you must not do***

Do not give P.V.CARPINE® eye drops to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

**Do not stop using P.V. CARPINE® eye drops without first talking to your doctor.**

If you stop using your eye drops, your eye pressure may rise again and damage to your eye may occur.

***Things to be careful of***

**Be careful driving or**

**operating machinery until you know how P.V.CARPINE® eye drops affect you.**

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops generally do not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

However P.V.CARPINE® eye drops may cause blurred vision/ dizziness/ drowsiness or tiredness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to P.V.CARPINE® eye drops or that your vision is clear before driving a car or operating machinery.

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**Side Effects**

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Tell your optical practitioner, doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while using P.V.CARPINE® eye drops.

P.V.CARPINE® eye drops help most people with high eye pressure and glaucoma, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your optical practitioner, doctor or pharmacist any questions you may have.

***Common side effects***

The most common side effects of P.V.CARPINE® eye drops are:

- temporary blurred vision
- burning, stinging, redness or watering of the eyes
- decrease in night vision
- eye irritation
- headache or browache

A slight burning sensation in the eyes may be felt shortly after using the eye drops. If this persists, or is very uncomfortable, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

It is possible for P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops to be absorbed into other parts of your body. If this does occur it may produce the following side effects:

- increased sweating
- muscle tremors
- nausea and/or vomiting
- diarrhoea
- troubled breathing or wheezing
- watering of the mouth

Tell your doctor if you notice any of these side effects and they worry you.

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops may cause other side effects. Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any problems while using P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops even if you do not think the problems are connected with the medicine or are not listed in this leaflet.

Do not be alarmed by the list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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### **After using P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops**

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#### **Storage**

Keep the eye drops where children cannot reach them.

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops should be stored with the cap on, in a cool place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Protect from light.

Do not freeze.

Heat and dampness can degrade P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops. Therefore you should not store P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops or any other medicines:

- **in a bathroom or near a sink**
- **in the car**
- **on windowsills**
- **in your clothes pockets**

Do not leave the cap off the bottle for any length of time to avoid contaminating the eye drops.

Do not use the eye drops if the solution is discoloured.

#### **Disposal**

**Write the date on the bottle when you open the eye drops and throw out any remaining solution after 4 weeks.**

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops contain a preservative which helps prevent germs

growing in the solution for the first four weeks after opening the bottle. After this time there is a greater risk that the drops may become contaminated and cause an eye infection. A new bottle should be opened.

If your doctor tells you to stop using P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops, or they have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any remaining solution.

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### **Product description**

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#### ***What P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops look like***

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops are a clear, colourless, sterile solution which is presented in a plastic dropper bottle with a tamper seal.

#### ***Ingredients***

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops contain pilocarpine hydrochloride in a base thickened with hypromellose.

The excipients or non-active ingredients are: disodium edetate, hypromellose, sodium phosphate-dibasic dodecahydrate, sodium phosphate-monobasic, sodium chloride, water-purified.

The preservative is: benzalkonium chloride.

### ***Strengths***

P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops are presented in 0.5%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 4% and 6% strengths.

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### **Sponsor or Supplier**

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Allergan Australia Pty Ltd  
810 Pacific Highway  
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Toll free phone  
1800-252-224

The Australian Registration Numbers for P.V.CARPINE<sup>®</sup> eye drops are:

AUST R 75891 (0.5%)  
AUST R 75892 (1%)  
AUST R 75894 (2%)  
AUST R 75895 (3%)  
AUST R 75896 (4%)  
AUST R 75897 (6%)

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