

## Side Effects of Glaucoma Medications

Following are some of the potential side effects of the most commonly prescribed types of glaucoma medications.

- **Prostaglandin Analogs:** possible changes in eye color and eyelid skin, stinging, blurred vision, eye redness, itching, burning.
- **Beta Blockers:** low blood pressure, reduced pulse rate, fatigue, shortness of breath; rarely: reduced libido, depression.
- **Alpha Agonists:** burning or stinging, fatigue, headache, drowsiness, dry mouth and nose, relatively higher likelihood of allergic reaction.
- **Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors:** in eye drop form: stinging, burning, eye discomfort; in pill form: tingling hands and feet, fatigue, stomach upset, memory problems, frequent urination.

Side effects of combined medications may include any of the side effects of the drug types they contain.

### Mitigation of Side-effects

Systemic side effects of glaucoma drops can be minimized by closing the eyes following application or using a technique called [punctal occlusion](#) that prevents the drug from entering the tear drainage duct and systemic circulation.

Try to use one drop rather than multiple drops instillation. Putting two or three drops of the same medication at the same time will not increase its effect.

### What to do if you are getting side effects?

Please report it to your doctor who will either ask you to stop and/or arrange an appointment to see him/her.