Eye Drops

Medications available over-the-counter for external application to the eye are meant for minor irritation or allergy. They contain either topical antihistamines, topical decongestants, or are merely lubricants. Prescription medications applied externally to the eye are not otherwise discussed here but include; antibiotic drops and ointments, anti-glaucoma agents, antihistamines, cromolyn sodium, steroid anti-inflammatories, non-steroid anti-inflammatories, topical anesthetics, anti-viral agents, and some lubricants.

Available agents:

- **Glycerin** (one of several active ingredients in Visine Tears). This is a lubricating agent.
- **Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose** (one of several active ingredients in Visine Tears). This is a lubricating agent.
- **Naphazoline** (one of several active ingredients in Visine-A). This is a topically applied decongestant which constricts the superficial blood vessels on and near the surface of the eye.
- **Oxymetazoline** (solitary active ingredient in Visine L.R. Long Lasting). This is a topically applied decongestant which constricts the superficial blood vessels in and near the surface of the eye.
- **Pheniramine** (one of several active ingredients in Visine-A). This is a topically applied antihistamine which blocks locally released histamine at or near the surface of the eye.
- **Polyethylene glycol** (one of several active ingredients in Visine Tears). This is a lubricating agent.
- **Tetrahydrozoline** (solitary active ingredient in Visine Original, one of several active ingredients in Visine-A.C.). This is a topically applied decongestant which constricts the superficial blood vessels in and near the surface of the eye.
- **Zinc Sulfate** (one of several active ingredients in Visine-A.C.). Zinc has some anti-inflammatory properties.