Silver nitrate

NOT RECOMMENDED AS AN ESSENTIAL MEDICINE

Section: 21. Ophthalmological preparations > 21.1. Ophthalmological preparations > Anti-infective agents

ATC codes: D08AL01

Indication	Neonatal conjunctivitis or dacryocystitis ICD11 code: KA65.0
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Formulations	**Local > Ophthalmological > Solution (eye drops):** 1%
EML status history	First added in 1977 (TRS 615) Changed in 1979 (TRS 641) Removed in 2005 (TRS 933)
Sex	All
Age	Adolescents and adults
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Silver nitrate
DrugBank	Silver nitrate

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

During its meeting in 2003, the Committee recommended that silver nitrate eye solution be reviewed for possible fast-track deletion at the meeting in 2005. A review was received from the ISDB, and a comment was received from the WHO Department of Chronic Diseases, Prevention and Management. The Committee noted that there was inadequate evidence on the safety of silver nitrate eye solution in the prevention of neonatal gonococcal conjunctivitis. The ISDB and the WHO Department of Chronic Diseases, Prevention and Management both raised safety concerns and supported the deletion of this item from the Model List. The aqueous solutions had caused chemical conjunctivitis due to the evaporation of the solvent over time, especially in tropical conditions, and such conjunctival irritation hampered eye contact of the neonate with the mother, which was claimed to hinder bonding. The Committee also noted that tetracycline ointment, which is already in the Model List, can be used for the same indications with fewer unwanted effects. The Committee therefore recommended that silver nitrate eye solution be deleted from the Model List.

