

RX

Drug Name: Tetracaine Hydrochloride
Trade Name: Pontocaine Eye, Pontocaine HCl, Tetracaine
REVISED: November 1, 2017

Class:

- Ophthalmic anesthetic

Mechanism of Action:

Causes a reversible blockade of nerve conduction by decreasing nerve membrane permeability to sodium. This decreases the rate of membrane depolarization thereby increasing the threshold for electrical excitability. Clinically, loss of nerve function is as follows: pain, temperature, touch, proprioception, and skeletal muscle tone.

Indications:

- Removal of foreign objects

Contraindications:

- Hypersensitivity to PABA, sulfites
- Open or penetrating globe injury

Precautions: (*Minor considerations for optic use*)

- Allergies
- Hypertension
- Cardiac disease
- Pregnancy (C)

Dosage:

Adults:

- 1-3 gtts

Pediatrics:

- 1-3 gtts

Onset:

- 15 seconds

Duration:

- 15 minutes

Side Effects:

- Blurred vision
- Stinging
- Photophobia
- CNS stimulation (*This and below are rare in optic use*)
- CNS and CV depression
- Burning
- Lacrimation

Interactions:

- Decreases bacterial actions of sulfonamides
- Can antagonize the effects of cholinesterase inhibitors locally

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This document is for **reference only**. Please refer to SWO's for specific indications, dosages, and applications

PEARLS

- *Don't forget good BLS care as well.*

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REFERENCE ONLY