# Tetracaine

MEDICATION

## THE DRUG

Class: Local anesthetic

How it works: Blocks pain signals at the nerve ending in the eye by blocking sodium ion channels

Blocks the initiation and conduction of neuronal impulses (per page)

## USE IT FOR

- Local anesthetic when eye irrigation is needed

## DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypersensitivity
- The patient will be unaware of objects touching the eye
- Protect the eye from foreign debris and prevent rubbing the eye

### DOSE

**Adult:** 1-2 gtts (drops)
**Peds:** [ dose not stated in original text ]
**Repeat:** [ dose not stated in original text ]

## WATCH FOR

- Conjunctival redness
- Photophobia
- Lacrimation (tearing)
- Burning

## PEARLS

- Onset, peak, and half-life are all listed as 'rapidly' (per page)

**Take Home Message:**

Tetracaine numbs the eye for irrigation — 1-2 drops — then protect the eye the patient can no longer feel.