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IN BRIEF

OTC Alcaftadine (*Lastacraft Once Daily Relief*) for Allergic Conjunctivitis

The ophthalmic H₁-antihistamine alcaftadine 0.25%, which has been available by prescription since 2011 for use in patients with allergic conjunctivitis, is now available without a prescription as *Lastacraft Once Daily Relief* (Allergan) for temporary relief of itchy eyes due to pollen, ragweed, grass, animal hair, and dander in adults and children ≥2 years old. It is the third ophthalmic antihistamine to be approved for over-the-counter (OTC) use (see Table 1).

Ophthalmic H₁-antihistamines are at least as effective as oral second-generation H₁-antihistamines for prevention of ocular itching due to allergic conjunctivitis, and they take effect within a few minutes.¹ They are generally not effective in relieving erythema. Alcaftadine, azelastine, bepotastine, epinastine, ketotifen, and olopatadine

also have mast cell-stabilizing effects. Ophthalmic vasoconstrictors such as naphazoline reduce erythema, but they should generally be avoided because they can cause rebound hyperemia.

EFFICACY – Once-daily use of alcaftadine has been shown to prevent ocular itching due to allergic conjunctivitis for up to 16 hours.² In a pooled analysis of two double-masked conjunctival allergen challenge (CAC) trials in patients with a history of ocular allergies, alcaftadine 0.25% was significantly more effective than olopatadine 0.2% in preventing CAC-induced ocular itching 16 hours after instillation.³

ADVERSE EFFECTS – Alcaftadine ophthalmic solution is generally well tolerated. Like most ophthalmic antihistamine products, it contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride, which can cause burning and stinging. Refrigerating the drug before use may mitigate this effect.

Table 1. Some Ophthalmic H₁-Antihistamines for Allergic Conjunctivitis

Drug	Formulations (Sizes)	Usual Dosage ¹	Age	Rx/OTC	Cost ^{2,3}
Alcaftadine – <i>Lastacraft Once Daily Relief</i> (Allergan)	0.25% soln* (5 mL)	1 drop once/day	≥2 yrs	OTC	\$19.00
Azelastine – generic	0.05% soln* (6 mL)	1 drop bid	≥3 yrs	Rx	35.00
Bepotastine – <i>Bepreve</i> (Bausch + Lomb)	1.5% soln* (5, 10 mL)	1 drop bid	≥2 yrs	Rx	256.10
Cetirizine – <i>Zerviate</i> (Eyeavance)	0.24% soln* (0.2 mL) ⁴	1 drop bid (8 hours apart)	≥2 yrs	Rx	229.10
Epinastine – generic	0.05% soln* (5 mL)	1 drop bid	≥2 yrs	Rx	85.60
Ketotifen ⁵ – generic	0.025% soln* (5, 10 mL)	1 drop bid (q8-12h)	≥3 yrs	OTC	11.00
<i>Alaway</i> (Bausch + Lomb)				OTC	11.00
<i>Zaditor</i> (Alcon)	0.025% soln* (5 mL)			OTC	12.00
<i>Alaway Preservative Free</i>	0.025% soln (0.4 mL) ⁶	1 drop bid	≥3 yrs	OTC	15.00
Olopatadine – generic	0.1% soln* (5 mL)	1 drop bid (q6-8h)	≥2 yrs	Rx	7.60
	0.2% soln* (2.5 mL)	1 drop once/day	≥2 yrs	Rx	14.00
<i>Pataday Twice Daily Relief</i> (Alcon)	0.1% soln* (5 mL)	1 drop bid (q6-8h)	≥2 yrs	OTC	13.00
<i>Pataday Once Daily Relief</i>	0.2% soln* (2.5 mL)	1 drop once/day	≥2 yrs	OTC	19.00
<i>Pataday Once Daily Relief Extra Strength</i>	0.7% soln* (2.5 mL)	1 drop once/day	≥2 yrs	OTC	20.00

OTC = available over the counter; Rx = available by prescription only; soln = solution

*Contains benzalkonium chloride (preservative).

1. Refrigerating the product before use could reduce stinging and burning.

2. Approximate WAC for one bottle or carton of the smallest available size (prescription products). WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. April 5, 2022. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2022. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

3. Approximate cost for one bottle or carton of the smallest available size at walmart.com (OTC products). Accessed April 28, 2022.

4. Available in cartons of 30 single-use 0.2-mL containers.

5. A contact lens that releases ketotifen (*Acuvue Theravision*) is also FDA-approved and will be marketed in late 2022 (Med Lett Drugs Ther 2022; 64:60).

6. Available in cartons of 20 single-dose 0.4-mL vials

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION — *Lastacaft Once Daily Relief* is available in a 5-mL bottle and in a twin pack containing two 5-mL bottles. The recommended dosage is one drop in each affected eye once daily. Other ophthalmic products should not be used for at least 5 minutes after instillation of alcaftadine. Contact lenses should be removed before use of the drug; they can be reinserted after 10 minutes. ■

1. Drugs for allergic rhinitis and allergic conjunctivitis. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2021; 63:57.
2. Alcaftadine (Lastacaft) for allergic conjunctivitis. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2011; 53:19.
3. EB McLaurin et al. Ocular itch relief with alcaftadine 0.25% versus olopatadine 0.2% in allergic conjunctivitis: pooled analysis of two multicenter randomized clinical trials. *Adv Ther* 2014; 31:1059.

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