

Sierra Donor Services Eye Bank
an extraordinary commitment to science, health and hope



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What is ASED?

Certain medical conditions can affect the eyes ability to properly lubricate the corneal surface. The application of eye drops may help alleviate discomfort from dry eyes. Autologous Serum Eye Drops (ASED) are eye drops derived from the patient's own blood serum that nourish the eye like natural tears. Research findings suggest that ASED have a therapeutic advantage because they contain biological components naturally found in healthy eyes.



VIDARIS
autologous serum eye drops



The Patient's Guide
to Autologous Serum Eye Drops

How to Get Started

Deciding if Serum Eye Drops are Right For You

Speak with your physician to see if this therapy is right for you. Your physician will perform a medical evaluation to determine if this treatment can help with your specific medical condition. If ASED is a recommended treatment, your physician will initiate the process by submitting a request and providing you information on where to have your blood drawn. Unfortunately, some pre-existing conditions may disqualify you as a candidate.

Preparing for Your Blood Draw

There are steps you can take to ensure you will be able to provide an adequate blood specimen for the production of ASED. At least 24 hours prior to blood draw, make sure to drink plenty of water and avoid diuretics such as caffeine and alcohol. If possible, gently warm the area where the draw will take place shortly before the blood is drawn. Verify with your physician which lab to go to for your blood draw.

Receiving Your Serum Eye Drops

Every batch of eye drops undergoes a 14-day fungal and bacterial culture to ensure sterility prior to distribution. You will be contacted by Sierra Donor Services Eye Bank staff when your eye drops are ready for pick-up or when they are ready for delivery. All eye drops will be packaged on dry ice to ensure they remain frozen during transport.

Once You Receive Your Serum Eye Drops

Storing Your Serum Eye Drops

Upon receiving your serum eye drops, make sure to immediately place them in the freezer, except for the one bottle that will be in use. Bottles should be thawed in the refrigerator before use; refrain from rapidly warming the eye drops. The bottle in use should be refrigerated at all times, except when placing the eye drops in your eye. Because the serum eye drops are derived from your blood and do not contain preservatives, they should immediately be discarded if they are left unrefrigerated. ASED expire 7 days after they have been thawed; as with any prescription, do not use beyond expiration.

Application of Your Serum Eye Drops

When applying your serum eye drops, make sure not to touch the tip of the bottle to your eye, as this can cause contamination. If the tip of the bottle comes in contact with anything other than the inside of the cap, discard the bottle. Use the serum eye drops as directed by your physician. If you experience any abnormal symptoms, discontinue use immediately and notify your physician. ASED is intended for use only by the patient to which it is prescribed and should not be shared with anyone else.

Re-ordering Your Eye Drops

Contact your physician at least 2-3 weeks prior to running out of serum eye drops. This will ensure enough time to have your blood drawn and ASED processed, thus preventing a lapse in therapy.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much blood is drawn?

The lab will draw approximately 100 mL of blood. For reference, when you donate blood, you give approximately 475 mL of blood.

How long does it take to process my blood into serum eye drops?

From receipt of the blood to the filling of the droppers can take less than 30 minutes. The finished product will then be sent to a lab for required testing to ensure that the eye drops are free of contamination; this testing takes approximately two weeks.

Can eye drops be shared with another person?

The serum eye drops are intended solely for the patient whose blood they were derived from and should absolutely NOT be used by anyone else to eliminate the possibility of disease transmission.

How long can my serum eye drops stay out of refrigeration?

Ideally, the drops will only be out of refrigeration for as long as it takes to apply the prescribed amount to your eye(s). If you must take the eye drops with you when you leave home, they should be transported and stored in a cooler with wet ice from your home freezer. Eye drops that have reached room temperature should be discarded. If there is any question about how long a bottle has been left out, discard it and open a new bottle.

Why did I receive a different number of bottles than last time?

The amount of bottles received is dependent upon the amount of serum that can be extracted from the blood. This amount may vary with each blood draw due to level of hydration, amount of diuretics consumed before the draw, and various genetic factors. A change in prescription may also affect the number of bottles received.