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# Potential Ocular Side Effects of Select Systemic Drugs

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# Potential Ocular Side Effects of Select Systemic Drugs

**Description**

The purpose of this poster is to serve as a handy reference for current and future eye care providers. It summarizes the ocular side effects that are potentially seen in patients who are on select systemic medications.

**Keywords**

Ocular Side Effects; Systemic Drugs

**Disciplines**

Optometry

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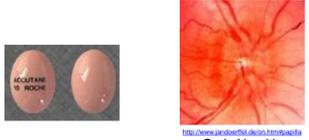
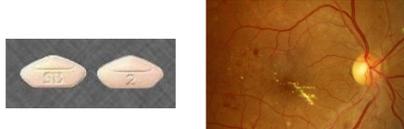
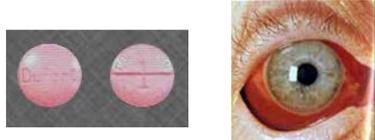
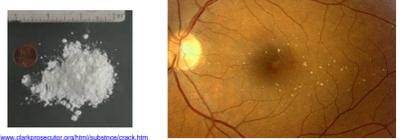
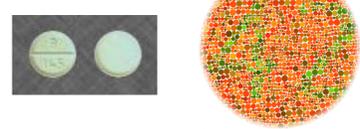
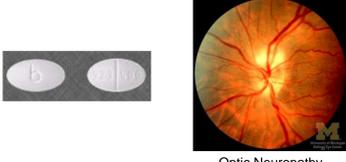
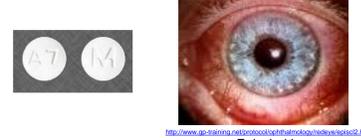
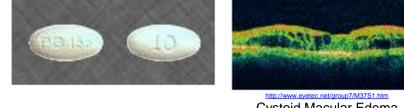
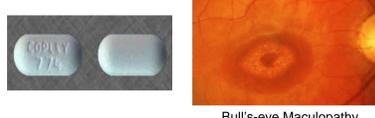
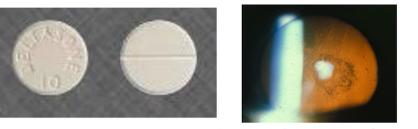
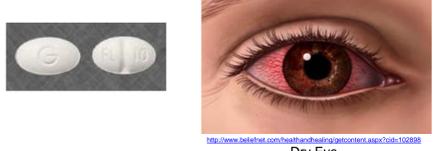
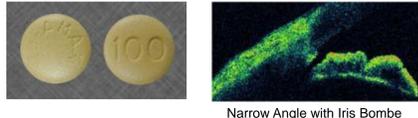
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# Potential Ocular Side Effects of Select Systemic Drugs



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<p><b>Accutane</b> (isotretinoin)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> This retinoid (a form of vitamin A) is used to treat psoriasis, cystic acne, and various other skin conditions. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Optic neuritis, dry eye, decreased night vision, and transitory myopia. <b>Comments:</b> Annual eye exam recommended.</p>	<p><b>amiodarone</b> (Cordarone or Pacerone)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Antiarrhythmic <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Whorl keratopathy, optic neuropathy, and photophobia. <b>Comments:</b> Seen with 400-1,400 mg/d. DDX: Fabry's disease, indomethacin, chlorpromazine</p>	<p><b>Avandia/Actos</b> (rosiglitazone maleate)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Diabetes. Increases sensitivity to insulin. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Macular edema <b>Comments:</b> DDX from CSME; Cardiovascular events are also seen.</p>	<p><b>contraceptives</b> estrogen and/or progesterone</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Pregnancy prevention <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Optic neuritis, pseudotumor cerebri, dry eyes <b>Comments:</b> retinal thrombosis, cardiovascular events</p>	<p><b>Coumadin</b> (warfarin sodium)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Prevents clot formation in atrial fibrillation and thrombosis. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Retinal and subconjunctival hemorrhage. Also seen with ginkgo use. <b>Comments:</b> INR &gt; 5 prone to bleed (normal 1-3)</p>
<p><b>crack cocaine/drug abuse</b></p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Illicit drugs <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Talc retinopathy, epithelial defects. Also seen with canthaxanthine. <b>Comments:</b> Talc are "fillers" in cocaine &amp; abused drugs along with things like flour, laxatives, sugar, and local anesthetics among other precipitates.</p>	<p><b>digoxin</b> (Digitek)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Congestive heart failure <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Red-green color defects, flickering or flashes of light, and colored spots. Snowy, hazy, or dimming vision. Yellow-tinged vision (xanthopsia) is also reported with this drug. <b>Comments:</b> Visual changes are reversible.</p>	<p><b>ethambutol</b> (Myambutol)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Tuberculosis <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Optic neuropathy <b>Comments:</b> Monthly exam is suggested for doses &gt;15mg/kg/day, elderly, children, and diabetics. Baseline exam should include VF, color vision, and optic nerve analysis.</p>	<p><b>Flomax</b> (tamsulosin)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Benign prostate hypertrophy <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Loss of tone in iris dilator smooth muscle causing poor pupil dilation/prolapse <i>during cataract surgery</i>. <b>Comments:</b> Selective alpha-1A antagonist</p>	<p><b>Fosamax</b> (alendronate/bisphosphonates)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Osteoporosis treatment/prevention <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Blurred vision, hyperemia, anterior uveitis, episcleritis, and scleritis. <b>Comments:</b> A thorough dilated exam is recommended due to the multiple side effects that may occur.</p>
<p><b>interferons</b> (Intron A/Avonex/Pegasys)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Used to treat hepatitis &amp; MS <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Ocular pain, conjunctivitis, cotton wool spots, optic neuritis, and pronounced dry eye. <b>Comments:</b> Eye exam prior to treatment and 2-4 weeks after treatments.</p>	<p><b>levothyroxine</b> (Synthroid)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Replaces thyroxine not produced by thyroid <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Diplopia, ptosis, and paralysis of EOMs. <b>Comments:</b> Patient may experience symptoms similar to myasthenia with excess hormone.</p>	<p><b>Lipitor/Zocor</b> (atorvastatin/simvastatin)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Hyperlipidemia <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Pseudo-cystoid macular edema <b>Comments:</b> Most commonly occurs in men between the ages of 30-50. Also seen with Niacin (vitamin to lower cholesterol).</p>	<p><b>phenothiazines</b> (Thorazine, Mellaril)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Treats depression and anxiety. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Night blindness (Nyctalopia), "brown vision", anterior subcapsular cataract, and salt/pepper fundus. <b>Comments:</b> Doses around 800 mg/d increase risk of toxicity.</p>	<p><b>Plaquenil</b> (hydroxychloroquine)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Treats malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus erythematosus. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Bull's-eye maculopathy, and corneal deposits. <b>Comments:</b> Baseline eye exam including HVF-10, Amsler grid, and color vision. Yearly thereafter.</p>
<p><b>prednisone</b> (steroids)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and other immune-mediated conditions. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Posterior subcapsular cataract; high IOP <b>Comments:</b> 25-80 mg/d; intravitreal injections and implants need regular monitoring.</p>	<p><b>Prozac/antidepressants</b> (fluoxetine/SSRIs)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Antidepressant <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Dry eye, blurred vision, mydriasis, photophobia, diplopia, conjunctivitis, and ptosis. <b>Comments:</b> Commonly prescribed generic drugs in US.</p>	<p><b>tamoxifen citrate</b> (Nolvadex)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Breast cancer <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Crystalline retinopathy <b>Comments:</b> Normal dosage levels (20 mg/d) are unlikely to induce retinopathy.</p>	<p><b>Topamax</b> (topiramate)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Seizures. Also off label for migraine headaches. <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Acute myopia, bilateral angle closure glaucoma. <b>Comments:</b> Ultrasonography has also shown choroidal effusion, choroidal detachment, and ciliary body edema.</p>	<p><b>Viagra/Levitra/Cialis</b> (sildenafil)</p>  <p><b>Indications:</b> Erectile dysfunction <b>Ocular Side Effects:</b> Bluish tinge to vision (cyanopsia), NAION, and macular edema. <b>Comments:</b> Visual side effects occur in 11% of men taking 100-mg doses.</p>