

# Sharpen Focus on Rx Presbyopia Eye Drops

## Top Takeaways

- All Rx eye drops for presbyopia improve near vision via a pinhole effect, but don't stop progression.
- Watch for mix-ups between products and strengths, such as pilocarpine 0.4% vs 1.25%.
- Ensure that patients receive pharmacist counseling on side effects, including reduced night vision.

You'll see **more Rx eye drops for presbyopia**...to help improve age-related blurry near vision.

Options now include aceclidine (Vizz)...pilocarpine 0.4% (Qlosi) or 1.25% (Vuity)...and carbachol/brimonidine (Yuvezzi), the first COMBO med.

All work by creating a pinhole effect that extends the depth of focus. Aceclidine, carbachol, and pilocarpine constrict the pupil...brimonidine prevents the pupil from dilating and limits redness.

But these meds don't stop presbyopia from progressing...or eliminate the need for reading glasses in all settings, especially in low light.

Use the chart below to help unblur Rx options for presbyopia.

Comparison of Rx Meds for Presbyopia					
Rx Drug	Dose	Duration of Effect	WAC/ How Supplied	Storage	Comments
Aceclidine 1.44% ophthalmic solution (Vizz)	1 drop in each eye; wait 2 min and instill a second drop in each eye once daily	~ 10 hours	\$75 per carton of 25 single-dose vials (5 pouches each containing 5 vials of 0.4 mL each)	Store refrigerated.  Once removed from fridge, may be stored at room temp for up to 30 days.	-Selective muscarinic agonist -Preservative- free -Studied in ages 45-75
Carbachol 2.75%/ brimonidine 0.1% ophthalmic solution (Yuvezzi)	1 drop in each eye once daily	~ 10 hours	\$79 per carton of 30 single-use vials (6 pouches each containing 5 vials of 0.16 mL each)	Store at room temp.	-Nonselective muscarinic agonist (carbachol)/al pha- adrenergic agonist (brimonidine) -Preservative- free -Caution with HTN meds or vascular insufficiency (Raynaud's, etc) because of

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Pilocarpine 0.4% ophthalmic solution (Qlosi)	1 drop in each eye; may repeat after 2-3 hours; may be used daily or as needed  Recommend BID dosing for first week	~ 8 hours (2 doses)	\$79 per carton of 30 single-dose vials (6 pouches contain 5 vials of 0.4 mL each)	Store refrigerated.  Once pouch is open, vials may be stored at room temp for up to 30 days.	brimonidine -Studied in ages 45-80  -Nonselective muscarinic agonist -Preservative- free -Available from a digital pharmacy -Studied in ages 45-64
Pilocarpine 1.25% ophthalmic solution (Vuity, generic)	1 drop in each eye once daily; may repeat after 3-6 hours	~ 6 hours (1 dose)	\$70/\$107 (generic) \$81/\$123 (brand) for 2.5 mL or 5 mL bottle	Store at room temp.	-Nonselective muscarinic agonist -Contains preservative (benzalkoni- um chloride) -Studied in ages 40-55

Expect presbyopia meds to be saved for patients who prefer eye drops over glasses. These drops are often considered lifestyle meds and aren't covered by payers...but non-Rx reading glasses can cost less than \$20.

Stay alert for confusion among products. It can be easy to mistake pilocarpine 0.4% for 1.25%...and brimonidine or pilocarpine also come in different formulations approved for glaucoma.

Pay close attention when entering days' supply. For instance, one carton of aceclidine contains 25 single-dose vials. Patients will use the same vial for both drops in each eye...so 1 carton is enough for 25 days.

Include a "May impair ability to drive" label with these meds. They may reduce night vision and limit night driving ability.

Educate about proper storage. And ensure patients get pharmacist counseling on administration and side effects. For example, presbyopia eye drops can cause headache or eye irritation.

Plus these meds have a warning about rare retinal detachment. Patients should get a dilated exam prior to starting therapy...and go to urgent care for flashes of light, new floaters, or sudden vision loss.

Also ask patients if they wear contact lenses or use other eye meds. Patients should separate other eye meds by at least 5 minutes...and wait about 10 minutes after instillation before inserting contacts.

### Key References:

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