Table 1

Topical IOP-lowering agents used in glaucoma

Topical drug	Dose	Notable side-effects
ß-blockers: reduce aqueous humour production		
Timolol 0.25 per cent, 0.5 per cent	bd	Systemic absorption may cause bronchoconstriction, **contraindicated in asthma/COPD,** hypotension, syncope, lethargy, impotence
Timolol 0.1 per cent	od	
Levobunolol 0.5 per cent	bd	
Carteolol 1 per cent, 2 per cent	bd	
Betaxolol 0.25 per cent	bd	
Prostaglandin analogues: increase uveoscleral outflow		
Latanoprost 0.005 per cent	nocte	Conjunctival hyperaemia, eyelash growth, iris and periocular skin pigmentation*
Travoprost 0.004 per cent	nocte	
Bimatoprost 0.03 per cent	nocte	
α-agonists: reduce aqueous humour production		
Brimonidine 0.2 per cent	bd	Allergic conjunctivitis, dry mouth, lethargy, headache
Apraclonidine 0.5 per cent, 1 per cent	tds	
Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors: reduce aqueous humour production		
Dorzolamide 2 per cent	bd/tds	Stinging, burning, bitter taste, contraindicated in corneal oedema
Brinzolamide 1 per cent	bd/tds	
Fixed-combination drugs		
Dorzolamide 2 per cent/timolol 0.5 per cent	bd	Side-effects as for individual components
Latanoprost 0.005 per cent/timolol 0.5 per cent	od	
Brimonidine 0.2 per cent/timolol 0.5 per cent	bd	
Bimatoprost 0.03 per cent/timolol 0.5 per cent	om	
Travoprost 0.004 per cent/timolol 0.5 per cent	nocte	

* Conjunctival hyperaemia is reversible with prostaglandin analogues and may in fact diminish with continued use after the first six weeks or so of use. Lash growth is also reversible. Iris pigmentation and periocular skin pigmentation are not reversible – however the latter is a less common side-effect.