

Safety Tips to Prevent Look-Alike Sound-Alike (LASA) Eye and Ear Drug Errors



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Safety Tips on Preventing LASA Eye and Ear Drug Errors

■ **Did you know that there are over 38 LASA Eye and Ear drug pair names** alone that have been associated with reported Medication Errors that have resulted from patients taking medications incorrectly at home?

■ Examples of **Sound-Alike** drug pair names:

Gentamicina	Tobramicina
Betoptic[®]	Timoptic[®]
Ciprodex[®]	Tobradex[®]
Ocuflox[®]	Floxin Otic[®]
Cortisporin[®]	Neosporin[®]
Cosopt[®]	Trusopt[®]
Timoptic[®]	Viroptic[®]
Tobradex[®]	Tobrex[®]

■ NYEE is a participating member of the American Association of Eye and Ear Centers of Excellence (AAECEE) **Worldwide Patient Safety Initiative to Address LASA Eye and Ear Medication Errors.**

To learn more about LASA Eye and Ear Medication Errors and our Initiative go to:

www.nyee.edu/lasa-e-petition.html

Top 10 List: Safety Tips To Prevent LASA Errors

10. **Be aware that Look-Alike Sound-Alike (LASA) drug names and products exist** and may be responsible for potential medication errors.
9. **Do not store LASA drugs next to each other** in your home. Place on different shelves or cabinets.
8. **Know the reason why you are taking each medication.** Keep a list. If you are unsure, ask your doctor or pharmacist to write it down for you.
7. **If you use visual aids**, such as glasses or contact lenses, **be sure to wear them while taking your medicine** in a well-lit room.
6. **Never exchange the colored caps** of your eye and ear medicine **or switch manufacturer boxes** as this may lead to the administration of the wrong medication and serious side effects.
5. **Take your time when administering your eye or ear drops.** Remember what you have been told by your doctor or pharmacist before taking your meds. If you have forgotten their instructions, call them up again.
4. **Wash your hands before** and after using your eye drops or ear drops.
3. **Give time for each eye or ear drop to be absorbed completely as instructed.** Do not use more drops than instructed by your prescription; otherwise the drops will not be absorbed properly and you may cause additional side effects of the drug.
2. **Know when your medication(s) expire(s).** If it is not on the prescription or you cannot read it, ask your pharmacist to write it down with large print so you can read it easily.
1. **Throw out ALL expired medications and medications that you are NOT presently taking as per your doctor's instructions.** This will minimize your risk of taking any expired or wrong medications.