

Cycloplegia, or paralysis of the accommodation reflex, is a possible side effect in patients administered atropine. This takes place because the drug inhibits ciliary contraction, and adequate refraction cannot take place. This can be remembered by the mnemonic "**blind as a bat**."

Disorientation**Disoriented-map**

As this drug crosses the blood-brain barrier, it can potentially cause disorientation or hallucinations in patients--particularly elderly ones. This can be recalled with the mnemonic "**mad as a hatter**."

Mydriasis**Meter-eyes**

Atropine is used as a mydriatic, as it dilates the pupils and is utilized in ophtalmic procedures. This occurs because the medication blocks acetylcholine's actions on circular pupillary sphincter contraction. Atropine is also used to induce cycloplegia in patients with malignant glaucoma, though it is contraindicated in narrow-angle glaucoma.