

LATISSE FOR EYELASH ENHANCEMENT

Allergan, one of the most trusted names in prescription eye-care products and also the makers of Botox for wrinkle reduction and JuvÃ©derm filler, have released Latisse a topical product to enhance eyelash length, thickness, and darkening. The active ingredient in Latisse is the same active ingredient found in Lumigan, a product made by Allergan, to treat glaucoma. It was noted that when patients instilled Lumigan eyedrops into the eye, many of them noticed that their eyelashes became longer, thicker, and darker. Studies have demonstrated that the topical application of this product to eyelashes has resulted in the same remarkable eyelash growth.

Latisse is dispensed in a small bottle with an eyedropper along with 60 applicator q-tips. One drop of the solution is to be applied to one q-tip and applied to the skin just above the upper eyelid eyelash nightly and discarded. A second fresh q-tip is similarly used to apply the solution to the opposite eyelid/eyelash. Using the product more than once a day does not increase its efficacy. Applying the solution to the upper eyelid/lash at night allows for the product to be transferred to the lower eyelid/lash while sleeping and enhances the growth of the lower eyelash as well. It is therefore not necessary to apply the product to the lower eyelid/lash. The product should be applied just behind the lash line, but if it accidentally gets into the eye, this should not pose a problem as this product is used directly in the eye to treat glaucoma. Most patients see a response by 12 weeks with a maximum response reached at 16 weeks. Not all patients will response equally well and there may be a few patients that do not benefit at all. A bottle generally lasts about a month. Once improvement is obtained, it may be maintained by applying the product on a less frequent basis, although this has not been clearly established. The cost of the product may vary from pharmacy to pharmacy but is in the range of \$100-\$130 per bottle.

The most common side effect reported is stinging and burning upon application which is temporary. Approximately 4% of the patients noted staining of the eyelid skin in the area of application which is temporary and usually goes away upon discontinuation of the product. Those patients with light colored eyelashes are likely to note darkening. A rare side effect noted in patients using Lumigan intraocular instillation for the treatment of glaucoma has been darkening of the iris (the pigment surrounding the pupil). This is most commonly seen in patients who have light colored eyes and has been reported to be permanent, but does not affect vision. To date, this darkening has not been reported in patients using Latisse for eyelash enhancement. The degree of eyelash lengthening, thickening, and darkening may vary from patient to patient. Upon discontinuation of the product, the eyelashes revert to their pretreatment state over a period of months. There are no known contraindications to the use of Latisse, although it is suggested that patients with a history of glaucoma consult with their eye physician before using this product.