



What's New in Ophthalmology Today?

Longer, thicker, darker eyelashes

Latisse is a drop recently approved by the FDA for **increasing the growth of eyelashes. This treatment results in eyelashes that are 25% longer, 106% thicker and 18% darker than before treatment.** The drop is applied once daily along the base of the eyelashes of the upper lid with a fine brush. At the end of 8 weeks there is a significant improvement of the eyelashes and at 4 months maximal benefits are observed. The improvement lasts as long as the medicine is used. Eyelash follicles grow for about 4 months; after stopping Latisse the eyelashes begin to return to the original state. The side effects noted in 3.6% of the clinical study patients included itching. There is also the possibility of darkening the upper eyelid skin and concern about darkening of the iris especially in blue eyed patients. These side effects however have not been seen in any patients taking this medicine at this time. Physicians noted that in patients taking Lumigan made by Allergan, a drop for the treatment of glaucoma, their eyelashes were longer and thicker. That led to the development of Latisse which uses a small amount of the ingredient in Lumigan that caused the eyelash growth. This drop is by prescription only and is not for every person so you need to consult with your ophthalmologist. Thicker eyelashes are now possible thanks to this new medication.

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