

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

^{Pr}**FML**®

fluorometholone ophthalmic suspension
Suspension, 0.1% w/v, for ophthalmic use
Manufacturer's Standard
Corticosteroid Anti-Inflammatory

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RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

Not available.

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Sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of authorization are not listed.

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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS

FML[®] (fluorometholone) is indicated for:

- the treatment of steroid-responsive inflammation of the palpebral and bulbar conjunctiva, cornea, and anterior segment of the globe.

1.1 Pediatrics (<18 years of age)

No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

1.2 Geriatrics (>65 years of age)

No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for geriatric use.

2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

FML is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredient, or component of the container. For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#).

FML is contraindicated in:

- Superficial (or epithelial) herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, varicella, and other viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva.
- Fungal diseases of ocular structures
- Mycobacterial infections of the eye (e.g., Tuberculosis of the eye)
- Acute untreated infections of the eye
- Patients who are hypersensitive to other corticosteroids.

4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Dosing Considerations

- The dosing of FML may be reduced, but care should be taken not to discontinue therapy prematurely. If FML is used for longer than 10 days (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)), withdrawal of treatment should be carried out by gradually decreasing the frequency of applications.

4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

- FML is for topical ophthalmic use only. Shake fluorometholone ophthalmic suspension well before use.
- Instill 1 to 2 drops into the conjunctival sac two to four times daily. During the initial 24 to 48 hours,

the dosage may be safely increased to 2 drops every 4 hours. Care should be taken not to discontinue therapy prematurely.

- If signs and symptoms fail to improve after two days, the patient should be re-evaluated.

Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

Health Canada has not authorized an indication for geriatric use.

4.4 Administration

To prevent eye injury or contamination, care should be taken to avoid touching the bottle to the eye, the eyelids or to any other surface. The use of the bottle by more than one person may spread infection.

4.5 Missed Dose

If the patient forgets to apply eye drops at their normal time, instruct the patient to apply them as soon as they remember. Instruct the patient to then return to their original schedule.

Instruct the patient not to catch up on missed drops by applying more than one dose at a time.

5 OVERDOSAGE

There is no known treatment of overdose. If accidental overdose occurs in the eye, flush the eye with water or normal saline. Discontinue medication when heavy or protracted use is suspected.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
ophthalmic	suspension, 0.1% w/v each mL contains 1 mg of fluorometholone	benzalkonium chloride 0.0046% w/v as the preservative, polyvinyl alcohol, edetate disodium, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate, sodium phosphate dibasic heptahydrate, polysorbate 80, sodium hydroxide to adjust pH, and purified water.

FML is available as a sterile topical ophthalmic suspension in an opaque low density polyethylene (LDPE) bottles with dropper tips and high impact polystyrene (HIPS) caps in the following sizes: 5mL and 10mL.

7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

Use of topical corticosteroids may cause increased intraocular pressure (IOP) in certain individuals. Prolonged use of FML (beyond 10 days) may result in glaucoma in susceptible individuals, with damage to the optic nerve, defects in visual acuity and fields of vision. It is necessary that the IOP be checked frequently in patients with a history of glaucoma.

Use of corticosteroids may prolong the course and may exacerbate the severity of many viral eye infections (including herpes simplex). Use of corticosteroids in the treatment of patients with a history of herpes simplex requires great caution; frequent slit lamp microscopy is recommended.

Prolonged use may result in posterior subcapsular cataract formation, and may also suppress the host immune response, and thus increase the hazard of secondary ocular infections.

Visual disturbance may be reported with systemic and topical corticosteroid use. If a patient presents with symptoms such as blurred vision or other visual disturbances, consider evaluating for possible causes which may include cataract, glaucoma or rare diseases such as central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) which have been reported after use of systemic and topical corticosteroids.

Topical ophthalmic corticosteroids may slow corneal wound healing. In those diseases causing thinning of the cornea or sclera, perforation has been known to occur with use of topical steroids.

Concomitant use of topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and topical steroids may increase the potential for healing problems.

Although the systemic exposure is expected to be low with topical ophthalmic corticosteroid administration, co-treatment with CYP3A inhibitors may increase the risk of systemic corticosteroid-related side-effects.

Acute untreated infections of the eye may be masked or activity enhanced by the presence of steroid medication.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

No studies have been conducted in animals or in humans to evaluate the potential of these effects with fluorometholone.

Driving and Operating Machinery

As with any ocular medication, if transient blurred vision occurs at instillation, the patient should wait until the vision clears before driving or using machinery.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

Ophthalmologic examinations, especially tonometry and slit-lamp examination, are required at periodic intervals for patients on FML therapy for more than several weeks. Chronic therapy with corticosteroids may cause posterior subcapsular cataracts, increased IOP and glaucoma, and may also enhance the establishment of ocular infections. Other tests may be warranted in some patients depending on condition.

Ophthalmologic

The initial prescription and renewal of FML should be made only after appropriate ophthalmologic examination (including but not limited to IOP assessment and slit lamp biomicroscopy). If signs and symptoms fail to improve after two days, the patient should be re-evaluated.

Given the risks of serious adverse outcomes, FML should not be used beyond 10 days, unless absolutely necessary, and only under strict ophthalmologic monitoring, including but not limited to tonometry and slit-lamp examination. Prolonged use of topical steroids increases the risk of raised IOP, glaucoma, and subcapsular cataract formation.

As fungal infections of the cornea are particularly prone to develop coincidentally with long-term steroid applications, fungus invasion must be suspected in any persistent corneal ulceration where a steroid has been used or is in use. Fungal cultures should be taken when appropriate.

- **Use with Contact Lenses:**

The preservative in FML, benzalkonium chloride, may be absorbed by soft contact lenses and cause their discoloration. Patients wearing soft contact lenses should be instructed to remove contact lenses prior to administration of the suspension and wait at least 15 minutes after instilling FML before reinserting soft contact lenses.

Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential

- **Fertility**

No studies have been conducted in animals or in humans to evaluate the potential of these effects with fluorometholone.

7.1 Special Populations

7.1.1 Pregnant Women

FML should not be used during pregnancy, unless the potential benefits to the mother clearly outweigh the risks to the fetus. Safety of the use of topical steroids in humans during pregnancy has not been established. Fluorometholone has been shown to be embryocidal, fetotoxic, and teratogenic in pregnant rabbits when administered by ocular instillation. See [16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY](#) section.

7.1.2 Breast-feeding

It is unknown if FML suspension is excreted in human milk. Systemically administered corticosteroids appear in human milk and could suppress growth, interfere with endogenous corticosteroid production, or cause other untoward effects. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from fluorometholone, FML is not recommended in nursing women, unless the benefit to the mother clearly outweighs the risks to the nursing infant.

7.1.3 Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

7.1.4 Geriatrics

Geriatrics: No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for geriatric use.

8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

Ocular adverse reactions associated with ophthalmic steroids may include elevated IOP, which may be associated with optic nerve damage, loss of visual acuity and field of vision defects, posterior subcapsular cataract formation, secondary ocular infection, delayed wound healing (including perforation of the globe where there is thinning of the cornea or sclera).

Eye disorders: posterior subcapsular cataract formation, secondary ocular infection from pathogens liberated from ocular tissues, and perforations of the globe.

8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. Therefore, the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in real-world use.

8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post marketing use of FML in clinical practice. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made.

Eye disorders: eye irritation, conjunctival/ocular hyperemia, visual disturbance, foreign body sensation, eyelid edema, blurred vision, eye discharge, eye pruritis, lacrimation increased, eye edema/eye swelling, mydriasis, ulcerative keratitis, ocular infection (including bacterial, fungal, and viral infections), visual field defect, punctate keratitis, eyelid ptosis.

Cases of corneal calcification have been reported very rarely in association with the phosphate component of FML in some patients with significantly damaged corneas.

Immune system disorders: hypersensitivity and allergic reactions

Nervous system disorders: dysgeusia

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: rash

9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

Specific drug interaction studies have not been performed with fluorometholone acetate. Concomitant use of topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and topical steroids may further delay wound healing (see [WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#), General).

Co-treatment with CYP3A inhibitors may increase systemic exposure resulting in increased risk of systematic side-effects. The combination should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the increased risk of systemic corticosteroid side-effects, in which case patients should be monitored for systemic corticosteroid side-effects.

9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions

Interactions with behaviour have not been established.

9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

Interactions with other drugs have not been established.

9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established.

9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

10.1 Mechanism of Action

FML is a glucocorticoid that inhibits both the early inflammatory activities such as edema, fibrin deposition, capillary dilatation, and migration of phagocytes as well as the later manifestations such as capillary proliferation, fibroblast proliferation, collagen deposition and cicatrization.

These drugs are believed to block the progression of inflammation by increasing the resistance of cells to cytotoxic breakdown products in the inflammatory zone. There is evidence to indicate that glucocorticoids inhibit inflammation and its spread by stabilizing membranes, especially those of the lysosomes.

In comparison with hydrocortisone, fluorometholone was found two to three times as effective in tests of catabolic effects in monkeys. It was, however, 131 times as effective in anti-inflammatory effect (using rat granuloma pouch techniques) and approximately 40 times as effective in a variety of other test models. Fluorometholone and prednisolone were evaluated for anti-inflammatory potency in a system employing the eyes of albino rabbits. The results of the study showed fluorometholone to be forty (40) times as effective as hydrocortisone in comparison to prednisolone which was found to be two (2) times as effective as hydrocortisone. These results are in accord with published data on topical anti-inflammatory corticosteroids. In a study on adult female rabbits, fluorometholone was found qualitatively to penetrate the intact eye into the aqueous humor. These results are in accord with published data on dexamethasone and prednisolone.

10.2 Pharmacodynamics

Not available at the time of initial authorization.

10.3 Pharmacokinetics

Not available at the time of initial authorization.

11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Keep out of sight and reach of children.

Store in an upright position at 15°C to 25°C. Protect from freezing. Keep bottle tightly closed when not in use.

Discard any unused product 1 month after first opening.

The product should be discarded after the expiration date. Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Patients should be advised to avoid touching the tip of the vial to the eye or any surface, as this may contaminate the suspension.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

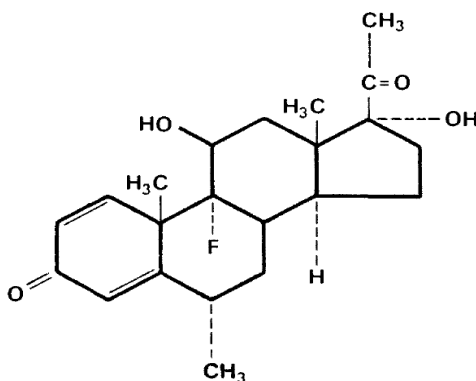
Drug Substance

Proper name: Fluorometholone

Chemical name: 9-Fluoro-11 β , 17-dihydroxy-6 α -methylpregna-1, 4-diene-3, 20-dione.

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C₂₂H₂₉FO₄ 376.47

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Fluorometholone is an odorless, white to slightly yellow-white powder with a melting point of about 280°C with some decomposition. It has a characteristic ultraviolet absorption maximum in methanol at 239 millimicrons.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

14.1 Clinical Trials by Indication

The clinical trial data on which the original indication was authorized is not available.

15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

General Toxicology: The recommended maximum human dosage of 0.1% fluorometholone (2 drops 4 times per day per 50 kg of body weight) is capable of causing systemic effects in animals when administered orally. Dosages of twenty and thirty times human equivalent dosages were administered to dogs and rats during both 90-day oral subacute toxicity studies. Systemic effects typical of glucocorticoids were noted, such as decreases in body weight gain, leukopenia, heterophilia, lymphocytopenia and liver malfunction. This was an unexpected finding as considerable data were available to Allergan Pharmaceuticals concerning subacute oral administration to humans that indicated no effect with three times the human dosage when administered orally (2.5 mg per day vs.

0.8 mg for maximum ophthalmic exposure). The male rats were less affected at the thirty times human equivalent dosage than the low-dosage females. By the 60th day of treatment, the eyes in all the female rats in the 0.16 mg/kg/day dosage level unexpectedly appeared partially buphthalmic and nebulous, lacking the pink color which results from the capillary bed.

The oral administration of a drug is bound to result in a greater systemic absorption than an ophthalmic application; however, the degree of difference is not known.

Draize eye irritation studies have been successfully completed using 0.1% and 0.25% fluorometholone. Nine albino rabbits were utilized to test the toxicity of both 0.1% and 0.25% fluorometholone formulation on the eye mucosa. In addition to the routine observations during the twenty day instillation period, each rabbit was observed for a seven day post instillation period for possible delayed changes or lesions. Two percent fluorescein was instilled to determine if there was any corneal damage resulting from the treatment. One animal was sacrificed on the last day of the observation period and subjected to a histological examination.

Upon examination, there were no histological differences observed between the treated and the control eyes. Thus, both concentrations (0.1% and 0.25%) were found to be free from any irritating effects.

Due to the maximum human dosage (3 drops 4 times per day) administered to young 2 kg rabbits for a twenty day period, it was not surprising that some of the animals did suffer from symptoms of glucocorticoid excess and eventually died from treatment.

A Draize eye irritation test has been successfully completed with FML-NEO (0.1% fluorometholone-0.5% neomycin sulfate) Liquifilm Ophthalmic Suspension, a similar formulation in that fluorometholone is a component of the combination product.

Nine albino rabbits were utilized to test the toxicity of fluorometholone-neomycin sulfate formulation on the eye mucosa. In addition to the routine observations for possible delayed ocular changes or lesions during the 90-day instillation period, the animals were sacrificed on the last day of the observation period and subjected to a histological examination. Upon examination, there were no histological differences between the treated and the control eyes.

During the fifth week of study it was noted that the animals in the higher dose level (10 times and 20 times human dose) unexpectedly appeared to have protruded eyes, a buphthalmos-like condition, which persisted throughout the remainder of the study.

Systemic effects typical of glucocorticoids were noted, such as decreases in body weight gain, leukopenia, heterophilia, lymphocytopenia and liver malfunction.

Carcinogenicity: No studies have been conducted to evaluate the carcinogenicity of fluorometholone.

Genotoxicity: No studies have been conducted to evaluate the mutagenicity of fluorometholone.

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology: When Fluorometholone was applied ocularly daily to rabbits on days 6-18 of gestation, dose-related fetal loss and fetal abnormalities including cleft palate, deformed rib cage, anomalous limbs and neural abnormalities such as encephalocele, craniorachischisis, and spina bifida were observed.

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

PrFML[®]

fluorometholone ophthalmic suspension

Read this carefully before you start taking **FML** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **FML**.

What is FML used for?

- FML is used in adults to treat inflammation of the eye.

How does FML work?

FML is an eye drop which contains the medicinal ingredient fluorometholone. Fluorometholone belongs to a group of medicines called corticosteroids. It decreases the body's immune response. This reduces inflammation and pain in the eye.

What are the ingredients in FML?

Medicinal ingredient: fluorometholone

Non-medicinal ingredients: benzalkonium chloride 0.0046% w/v (as preservative), edetate disodium, polysorbate 80, polyvinyl alcohol, purified water, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate dibasic heptahydrate, sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate, and sodium hydroxide to adjust pH.

FML comes in the following dosage forms:

Ophthalmic suspension, 0.1% w/v

Do not use FML if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to fluorometholone, benzalkonium chloride, other corticosteroids, or any of the other ingredients in FML (see **What are the ingredients in FML?**)
- you have (or think you have) an infection of the eye, including a bacterial infection, a viral infection (such as herpes, vaccinia, or chickenpox), or a fungal infection
- you have tuberculosis of the eye

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take FML. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have or have ever had glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye)
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You should not use FML unless your healthcare professional has told you to.
- have a history of any other eye condition

Other warnings you should know about:

Slow wound healing

FML may slow healing after surgery or if you have a wound. Talk to your healthcare professional right away if you develop further symptoms such as: eye redness, itching, tearing, discharge, feeling something in your eye, seeing floating spots or sensitivity to light.

Use with contact lenses

The preservative in FML (benzalkonium chloride) may be absorbed by and discolour soft contact lenses. You should remove your contact lenses before you put FML in your eye(s) and kept them out for 15 minutes after.

Driving and using machines

Your vision may become blurred for a short time after using FML. You should not drive or use machines until your vision is clear again.

Monitoring by your healthcare professional

Corticosteroids, like FML, can increase your risk of developing cataracts (clouding of the lens of your eye), glaucoma (increased eye pressure) and central serous chorioretinopathy (blurred vision). Your risk increases if you use it for more than 10 days. Your healthcare professional will monitor the health of your eye(s) closely while you are using FML.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with FML:

- medicines used to treat HIV infection such as; ritonavir, cobicistat
- antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections such as; clarithromycin, erythromycin
- antifungals used to treat fungal infections such as; ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole
- aprepitant, a medicine used to treat nausea and vomiting
- medicine used to treat high blood pressure and other heart problems such as; diltiazem, verapamil
- other topical corticosteroid medicines or topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

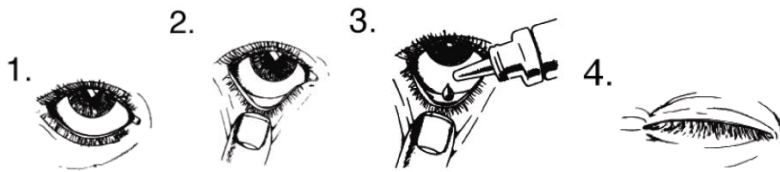
How to take FML:

- Use FML exactly how your healthcare professional tells you to. If you are not sure, talk to your healthcare professional.
- Do not stop taking FML or change your dose without talking to your healthcare professional.
- To help prevent infections, do not let the tip of the bottle touch your eye, eyelid or anything else.
- The bottle should be used by only one person, to prevent the spread of infection.

- If your symptoms do not improve, or get worse, after using FML for two days, talk to your healthcare professional.

Follow the steps below to help you use FML properly:

- Shake the bottle before use. Wash your hands. Tilt your head back and look at the ceiling. (See Illustration 1)
- Gently pull the lower eyelid down until there is a small pocket (conjunctival sac). (See Illustration 2)
- Turn the bottle upside down and squeeze it to release one or two drops into each eye that needs treatment. (See Illustration 3)
- Let go of the lower lid, and close your eye for 30 seconds. (See Illustration 4)
- If a drop misses your eye, try again.
- Close the cap immediately after use.
- Wipe the excess liquid from your face.
- Wash your hands to remove any medication.



Usual adult dose:

Apply 1-2 drops into the conjunctival sac (the space between your lower eyelid and eye- see Illustration 2) two to four times daily.

Overdose:

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much FML, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

If you accidentally use too many drops, flush your eye with water or normal saline solution.

Missed Dose:

If you forget to use FML at your normal time, use it as soon as you remember. Then go back your usual dosing schedule. Don't try to catch up on missed drops by applying more than one dose at a time.

What are possible side effects from using FML?

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking FML. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- eye irritation
- redness
- blurred vision
- itching
- tearing
- taste disorder
- rash

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Allergic reaction: difficulty swallowing or breathing, wheezing, drop in blood pressure, feeling sick to your stomach and throwing up, hives or rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat			✓
Eye problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye): increased pressure in your eye, eye and head pain, swelling or redness in or around the eye, changes in vision, hazy or blurred vision, sudden vision loss • Cataracts: clouding of the lens in the eye, blurry vision, dim vision and/or eye pain • Central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR): blurry vision or other changes in vision • Eyelid ptosis: drooping or sagging of the upper eyelid • Corneal calcification: Long-term use may cause calcium to build up on the clear front surface of the eye due to phosphate ingredients in FML eye drops. 		✓	

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
New eye infection: eye redness, eye swelling, eye crusting, weeping eyes, eye discharge, feeling like there is something in your eye		✓	
Perforation (tear) in the eye: tearing, eye pain, worsening of vision or loss of vision, double vision			✓

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

FML should be stored in an upright position between 15°C - 25°C. Protect from freezing. Keep the bottle tightly closed when you are not using it.

Discard any unused product 1 month after first opening.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about FML:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website: (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website (www.abbvie.ca), or by calling 1-888-704-8271.

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