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INFORMATION ON BIMATOPROST (LATISSE)

What is bimatoprost?

- This is a topical product used to stimulate eyelash growth.
- This drug was originally designed to treat glaucoma (elevated pressures in the eye) but was found to help promote longer eyelashes in healthy women. It was subsequently found to have some role in patients with alopecia areata.

How is bimatoprost applied?

- Only apply at the base of the upper eyelashes. DO NOT apply to the lower eyelid. DO NOT APPLY DROPS INTO THE EYES
- Apply nightly at the base of the upper eyelid margin
- Blot any excess solution
- Dispose of the applicator after a single use

When is hair growth noticed?

- Hair growth may be noted at 4 weeks and maximizes at 16 weeks (4 months)

Who should not use Bimatoprost (Lattise)?

- Dr. Donovan will likely advise his patients to consult an eye doctor if they have had eye surgery before or if you have eye problems in the past.
- One must not use bimatoprost if you have eye inflammation of any kind (i.e. uveitis). Bimatoprost must not be used if pregnant or breast feeding as it has not been studied.

What are the side effects of bimatoprost?

- Dr. Donovan will review more about all possible side effects at your meeting
- This medication may cause brown pigmentation of the colored part of the eye (iris) which may be PERMANENT. It may not be noticed for months to years. This may be more common when the medicine was use as eyedrops rather than simply put on the skin but it is not known how common pigmentation changes are.
- Eyelid skin darkening may occur which may or may not be reversible
- Hair growth may occur in other areas that bimatoprost touches like the eyelids or face
- Itchy eyes (4% of users) and red eyes (conjunctival hyperemia) may occur
 - Eye redness and itchiness are the most common symptoms
- Small risk of inflammation inside the eye in those who used drops for glaucoma
- Bimatoprost may also cause thinning of the skin around the eye. This is called 'orbital atrophy' and leads to a sunken eye appearance.

