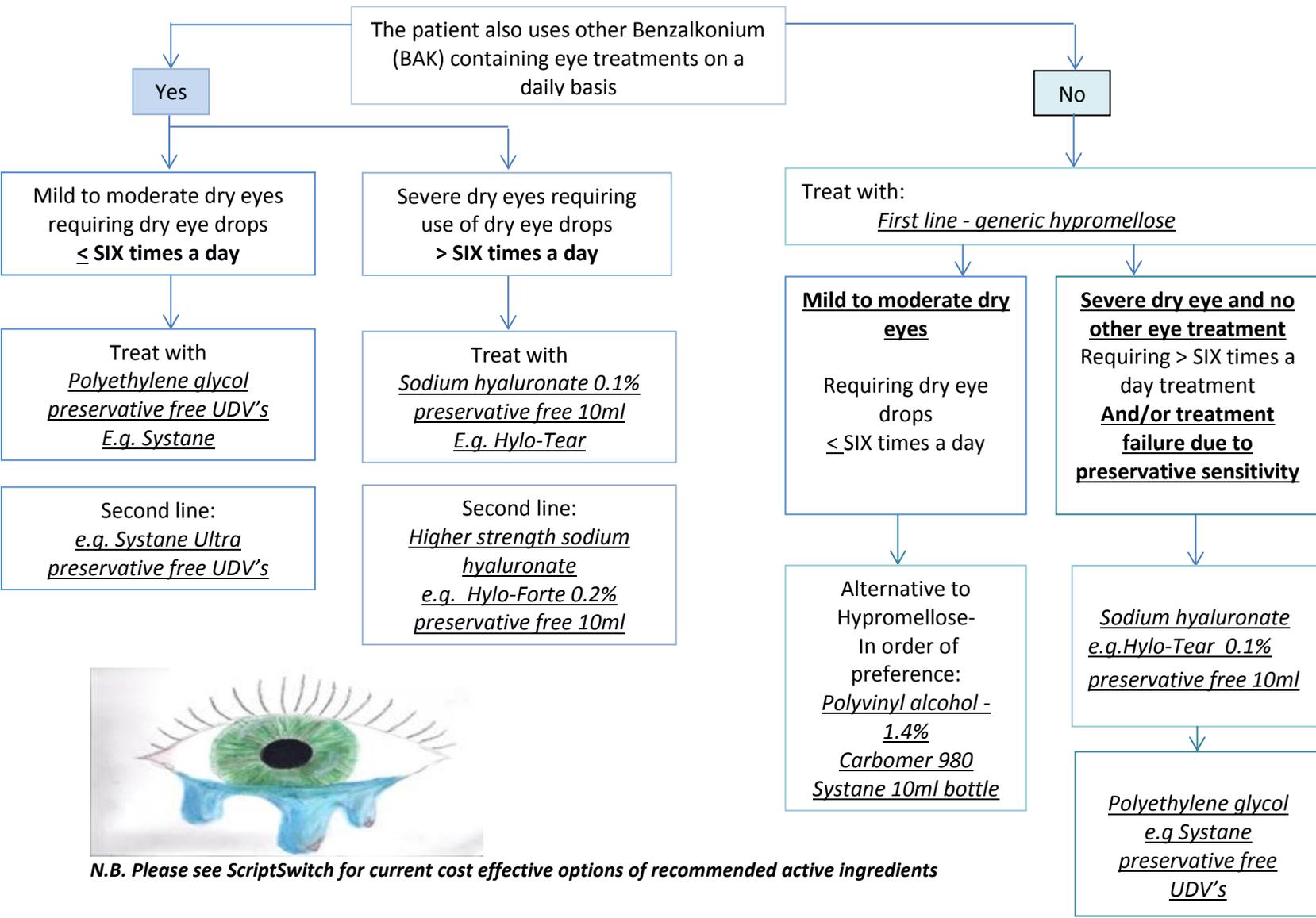


Dry Eye Prescribing Guidelines



N.B. Please see ScriptSwitch for current cost effective options of recommended active ingredients

Key Points

- Use of Benzalkonium (BAK) containing eye drops carries the risk of epithelial toxicity.
- BAK toxicity presents as dry eye-type symptoms. Increasing use of BAK products can worsen symptoms
- The more eye drops used with BAK the higher the risk of toxicity
- The risk is dependent on the concentration, frequency of dosing, level of tear secretion and severity of ocular surface damage
- Use of one BAK containing product at a dose of one drop 4-6 times a day is considered a safe frequency
- Patients who are on 2 or more BAK containing products will have a higher risk.
- Some people require hourly drops to receive symptomatic relief from dry eyes and are therefore at higher risk if using BAK-containing product

Common Eye drops that contain benzalkonium

<u>Class of drug</u>	<u>Drug/ Generic Name</u>	<u>Brand Examples</u>
<u>Antibacterials</u>	Fusidic acid	Fucithalmic®
<u>Steroids</u>	Betamethasone	Betnesol® Vistamethasone®
	Dexamethasone - With neomycin	Maxidex® Maxitrol®
	Prednisolone	Predsol® Predforte®
<u>Other anti-inflammatory preparations</u>	Sodium Cromoglicate	Opticrom® Allercrom®
<u>Beta Blockers</u>	Timolol	Timoptol®
	Levobunolol	Betagan®
<u>Prostaglandin Analogues</u>	Bimatoprost - With timolol	Lumigan® Ganfort®
	Latanoprost - With timolol	Xalatan® Xalacom®
<u>Sympathomimetics</u>	Brimonidine - With timolol	Alphagan® Combigan®
<u>Carbonic anhydrous inhibitors</u>	Brinzolamide - With timolol	Azopt® Azarga®
	Dorzolamide - With timolol	Trusopt® Cosopt®

N.B. different generics will vary in their excipients – please refer to specific product literature for more information.