

### ☒ Prostaglandin analogues should be avoided in patients with a history of herpes keratitis

#### ***The Science behind the Tip***

Topical prostaglandins are commonly used as first-line and second-line therapy in patients with ocular hypertension and glaucoma.

A rare side-effect of this treatment is reactivation of herpes keratitis in patients who have had this problem in the past<sup>1-3</sup>. In an experimental study in rabbits, topical latanoprost increased the severity and recurrence of herpes ulceration<sup>4</sup>. The mechanism responsible for this complication of therapy is not understood.

An alternative topical intraocular pressure lowering drop should be used in these circumstances, as this has not been reported as a side-effect of other glaucoma medication.

#### ***References***

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4. Kaufman HE, Varnell ED, Toshida H, *et al.* Effects of topical unoprostone and latanoprost on acute and recurrent herpetic keratitis in the rabbit. *Am J Ophthalmol.* 2001;131:643-6.