

The logo consists of the letters 'RX' in a large, white, serif font, centered within a dark gray square.

**Drug Name:** Tetracaine Hydrochloride  
**Trade Name:** Pontocaine Eye, Pontocaine HCl, Tetracaine  
**Class:**

- Ophthalmic anesthetic

**Mechanism of Action:**

Causes a reversible blockade of nerve conduction by decreasing nerve membrane permeability to sodium. This decreases the rate of membrane depolarization thereby increasing the threshold for electrical excitability. Clinically, loss of nerve function is as follows: pain, temperature, touch, proprioception, and skeletal muscle tone.

**Indications:**

- Removal of foreign objects

**Contraindications:**

- Hypersensitivity to PABA, sulfites
- Open or penetrating globe injury

**Precautions:** (*Minor considerations for optic use*)

- Allergies
- Hyperthyroidism
- Hypertension
- Cardiac disease
- Pregnancy (C)

**Dosage:**

**Adults:**

- 1-3 gtts

**Pediatrics:**

- 1-3 gtts

**Onset:**

- 15 seconds

**Duration:**

- 15 minutes

**Side Effects:**

- Blurred vision
- Stinging
- Photophobia
- CNS stimulation (*This and below are rare in optic use*)
- CNS and CV depression
- Burning
- Lacrimation

**Interactions:**

- Decreases bacterial actions of sulfonamides
- Can antagonize the effects of cholinesterase inhibitors locally

**DRUG: TETRACAINE**

RX

**PEARLS**

- *Don't forget good BLS care as well.*

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