



Figure 17-4. Time to cycloplegic recovery (reprinted with permission from Duvall B, Kershner RM. *Ophthalmic Medications and Pharmacology*. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK Incorporated; 1998).

Ocular Lubricants

- Ocular lubricants are the initial therapeutic choice for ocular dryness. Preservative-free preparations should be used whenever possible (Tables 17-4 through 17-7).
- Topical hyperosmotics are used to decrease corneal edema resulting from a variety of conditions and are helpful in increasing vision and comfort.
- Mucomimetic, irrigating (Table 17-8), and coupling solutions have valuable but limited roles in ophthalmic care.
- The space-occupying, protective, and inert nature of viscoelastics makes them a critical component of intraocular surgery (Table 17-9).

Vasoconstrictors, Antihistamines, and Mast Cell Stabilizers

- When administered topically, ocular decongestants (or vasoconstrictors) constrict the superficial conjunctival blood vessels and thus reduce congestion and redness (Table 17-10).