

# What's New In the Treatment of MGD and Blepharitis?

COPE#76761-TD  
Walt Whitley, OD, MBA, FAAO  
Dry Eye in the Desert  
Woo University

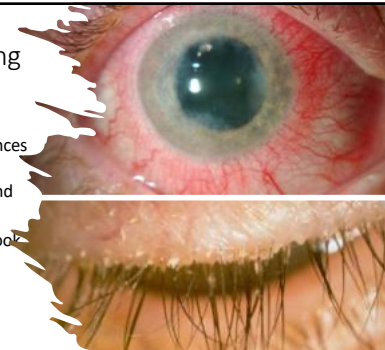
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Disclosures - Walter O. Whitley, OD, MBA, FAAO has received consulting fees, honorarium or research funding from:

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## 4 Steps to Beating Blepharitis

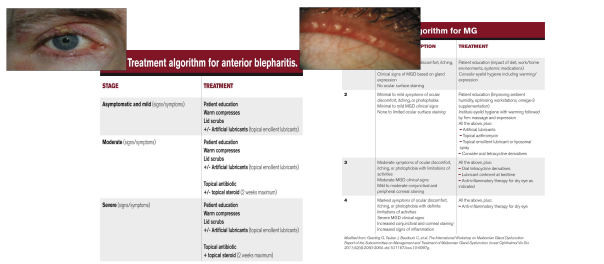


- Understand the differences among presentation
- Know the prevalence and who is affected
- Listen to patients and look for this disease
- Treat and manage appropriately

<https://www.optometrximes.com/View/4-steps-beating-blepharitis>

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## So Where Were We a Decade Ago?



**Treatment algorithm for anterior blepharitis, 2011**

STAGE	TREATMENT
Asymptomatic eyelid (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants)
Mild (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants)
Severe (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants) Topical antibiotic +/- topical steroid (2 weeks maximum)

**Algorithm for MG 2021**

STAGE	TREATMENT
Asymptomatic eyelid (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants)
Mild (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants)
Severe (sign/symptom)	Patient education Warm compresses Lid wiper +/- topical lubricants (lipid emulsion/lubricants) Topical antibiotic +/- topical steroid (2 weeks maximum)

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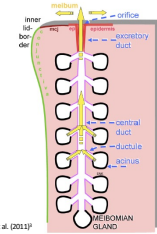
## TFOS DEWS II Definition

*“Dry eye is a multifactorial disease of the ocular surface characterized by a **loss of homeostasis** of the tear film, and accompanied by **ocular symptoms**, in which tear film **instability** and **hyperosmolarity**, ocular surface **inflammation** and damage, and **neurosensory abnormalities** play etiological roles.”*

Craig JP, Nichols KK, Akpek EK, Caffery B, Dua HS, Joo CK, Liu Z, Nelson JD, Nichols JJ, Tsubota K, Stapleton F. TFOS DEWS II Definition and Classification Report. *Cornea*. 2017;34(2):375-383. doi: 10.1097/ICO.0000000000001211. Epub 2017 Jul 20. PMID: 28736319.

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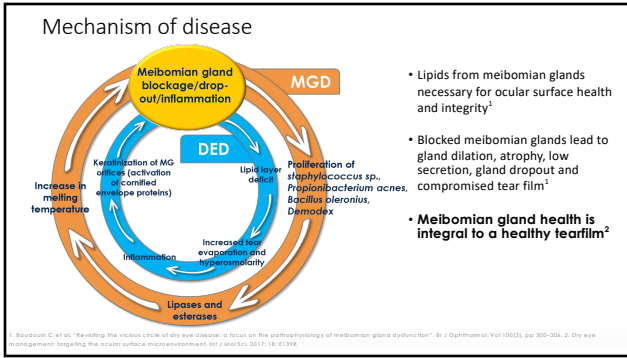
## The Meibomian Glands



- Modified sebaceous glands located superficially in the tarsal plate<sup>2,3,6</sup>
  - Should sit just anterior to mucocutaneous junction in healthy patient
  - 25-40 in upper eyelid
  - 20-30 in lower eyelid
- Each gland is comprised of<sup>2,3,6</sup>:
  - Meibocytes (secretory cells)
  - Lateral ductules
  - Central duct
  - Terminal excretory duct at the lid margin
- Densely innervated<sup>2,3,6</sup>
  - Function related to hormones, growth factors, neurotransmitters, etc.

Knop et al. (2013)<sup>7</sup>

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### Keratinization may be present in multiple places in the Meibomian gland: Gland Orifice

- Hyperkeratinization at the gland orifice is a leading pathogenesis of MGD<sup>1</sup>
  - Keratin formation is a natural process
  - Keratin is produced and sheds at physiological rates to confer its protective role while not accumulating in excess
  - At the gland orifice on the lid margin:
    - Hyperproliferation may produce excess keratin (directly related to an oil producing gland)
    - Terminal Duct Obstruction: Stress at the lid margin results in excess keratinization and excess keratin may block the glands and restricts outflow of meibum

1. Kwon H, Wang J, Cho H, et al. The histomorphological and ultrastructural study of the lid margin in primary keratitis: histology and pathophysiology of the meibomian gland. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci 2011; 52: 1018-1024

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### Patient Education is Key!!

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### Why Is Patient Education Important?

- Impact of DED/MGD on quality of life and surgical outcomes
- Improves interprofessional collaboration and communication
- Manage patient expectations
- Treatments are self-administered; patients need to stay motivated to adhere to treatment
  - Seeing objective measurements and images are helpful (eg, meibomian gland dropout, topography readings) and helps patients adhere to treatment
- Having a written plan is important
  - Patients forget
  - Regimens are complicated
  - COVID-19/telehealth

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### Poll Results: What resources do you use for patient education on DED management?

- In-office patient engagement software (13%)
- Recommendations for online resources (24%)
- Practice-/Office-made handouts (67%)
- Industry or professional society handouts (28%)
- I do not provide or recommend educational materials on DED management (13%)

N = 95  
> 2 response allowed

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### Patient Education Samples

Courtesy of Walter O. Whitely, OD, MBA, FAAO, and Virginia Eye Consultants      Courtesy of Damon Dierker, OD, and Eye Surgeons of Indiana      Courtesy of Eric D. Donnerfeld, MD, and Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island and Connecticut

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### OSD Treatment Strategies in 2022

- Lubricants
  - Tears (emulsions, solutions), gels, ointments, sustained-release formulation
  - Ingredients
    - Hyaluronic acid, Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), Lipid-based
- Nutrition
  - Oral essential fatty acids
  - Vitamin A ointment

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### OSD Treatment Strategies in 2022: Lid Margin Disease Management

- Warm compress and lid massage
  - Difficult to maintain adequate temperature; poor compliance
- Lid scrubs
  - Commercial soap scrubs
  - Tea tree oil in *Demodex* mite infestation<sup>1</sup>
- In-office lid margin cleansing and meibomian gland expression for anterior blepharitis and posterior blepharitis
  - Motorized/mechanical devices<sup>2</sup>
  - Thermal and thermal pulsation<sup>3</sup>
  - Intraductal probing<sup>4</sup>
  - Intense pulsed light<sup>5</sup>
  - Radiofrequency

1. Cao YY, et al. *Cornea*. 2007;26(2):136-143. 2. Koob DR, Bleasdale CA. *Cornea*. 2013;32(12):1954-1959. 3. Lane SS, et al. *Cornea*. 2012;31(4):396-404. 4. Mankin SL. *Cornea*. 2010;29(10):1145-1152. 5. Craig JP, et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2015;56(3):1965-1970.

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### OSD Treatment Strategies in 2022

- Anti-inflammatory agents
  - Topical corticosteroids
  - Topical cyclosporine A emulsion (CSA) 0.05% and 0.09%
  - Topical lifitegrast, 5%
  - Oral tetracyclines or macrolides
  - Topical azithromycin
- Amniotic membrane products: anti-inflammatory and promote wound healing
- Neurostimulation
  - Intranasal neurostimulation - pharmacologic
  - Extranasal neurostimulation

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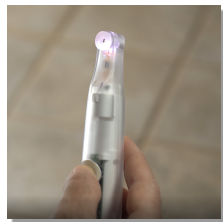
### Dry Eye Homework



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### At Home Mechanical Eyelid Device

- The Starter Kit includes; rechargeable cordless handpiece, charger plug and cord, and 30 to 180-day supply of Daily Disposable Soft Tips
- A new sterile Soft Tip is attached to the handpiece daily
- A small amount of lubricating gel or cleaner is applied to the edge of the Soft Tip to enhance comfort.
- The Soft Tip oscillates gently over closed eyelids for 30 seconds per eye per day



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### JOURNAL OF DRY EYE DISEASE

Original Article

#### EFFICACY OF SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF A PERSONAL MECHANICAL EYELID DEVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DRY EYE DISEASE, BLEPHARITIS, AND MEIBOMIAN GLAND DISEASE

David Schanzlin MD<sup>1</sup>, John Olkowski MD<sup>2</sup>, John Coble OD<sup>3</sup>, Wendy Gross OD<sup>1</sup>, Michael Dash OD<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gordon-Schanzlin New Vision Institute, San Diego, CA

<sup>2</sup>EyeSight Hawaii Vision Institute, Honolulu, HI

<sup>3</sup>EyeCare of Greenville, Greenville, TX

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**Efficacy Endpoint Results**

	PRE-TREATMENT	POST-TREATMENT	P-VALUE
<b>OSDI</b>	54.2 ± 19.5	26.7 ± 18.4	<i>P</i> < 0.001
<b>TOT (mOsm/L)</b>	315 ± 15.7	306 ± 13.9	<i>P</i> = 0.002
<b>TBUT (seconds)</b>	4.8 ± 1.7	7.9 ± 4.1	<i>P</i> < 0.001
<b>MGS</b>	8.9 ± 5.1	7.0 ± 5.9	<i>P</i> = 0.01
<b>MGYLS</b>	8.7 ± 6.2	15.8 ± 6.9	<i>P</i> = 0.002
<b>SOSS</b>	2.7 ± 2.1	1.4 ± 1.5	<i>P</i> = 0.002

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**An Evaluation of the Effect a Manual Eyelid Cleaning Device has on Donor Cornea Epithelium after Direct Application**

John Orlowski MD, EyeSight Hawaii Vision Institute, Honolulu, HI  
 Affiliation: John Orlowski, MD, EyeSight Hawaii Vision Institute, 650 Iroka Road, Suite 210, Honolulu, HI 96817 (e-mail: jorkowski1@gmail.com)  
 J. Orlowski has financial interest in NuSight Medical.  
 Key words: Dry eye disease, Blepharitis, Meibomian gland disease

**NuLids has ZERO REPORTABLE ADVERSE EVENTS After 750,000+ patient home treatments over 3+ years**

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**INTRODUCING**

A new MGD treatment advancing patient care

Instant, Precise Heat & Pre-Moistened Cleaning Pad in One Convenient, Easy to Use Therapy

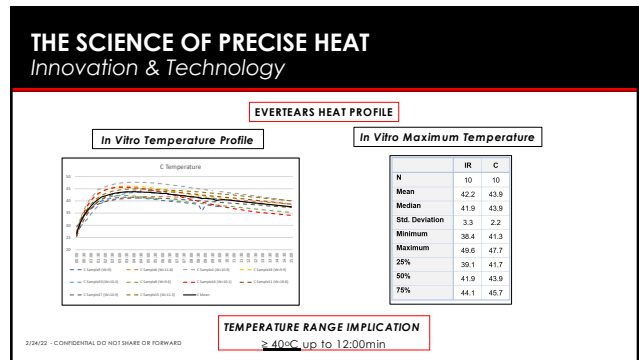
- Class I Med Device: United States
- Class IIA Med Device: Europe

**TherMamexx**



- ✓ Sterile, Precise Daily, Moist Heat to Help Manage the Underlying Issues Associated with MGD
- ✓ Designed to Improve Patient Compliance by Eliminating the Need for Multiple Products

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**THIS SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE TREATMENT**  
Will change the quality of life for MGD patients

**ACTIVATE HEAT**

< 20 secs to activate heat for compress up to 10 mins

➔

**GENTLE CLEANING**



~ 2 to 3 mins per eye with gentle cleaning of lids

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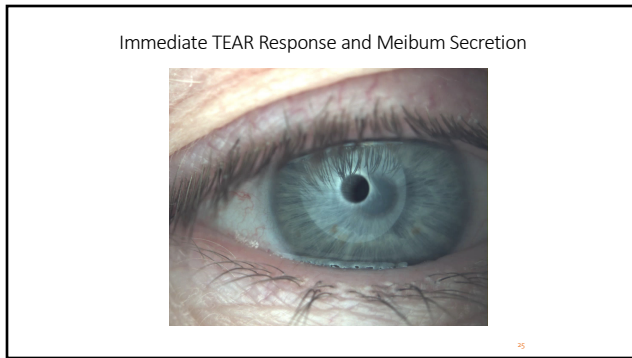
**FDA Label**

**INDICATION FOR USE**

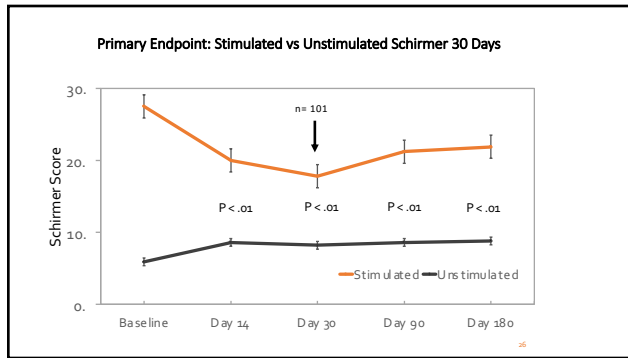
The **Neurostimulator™** is an electromechanical nerve stimulator device, indicated for temporary use (up to 30 days) to increase acute tear production during vibratory stimulation of the external nasal nerve in adults, under prescription of an eyecare provider.

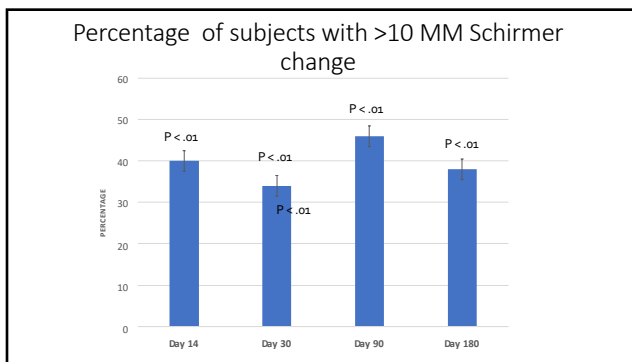
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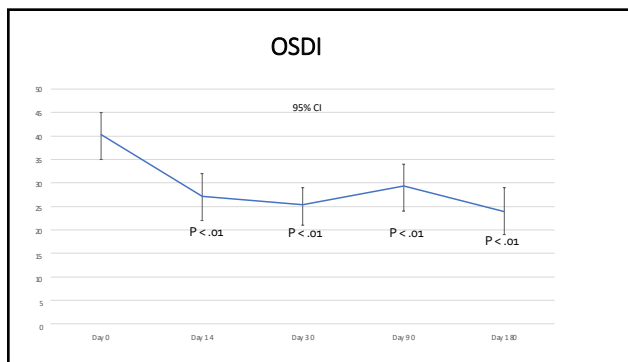
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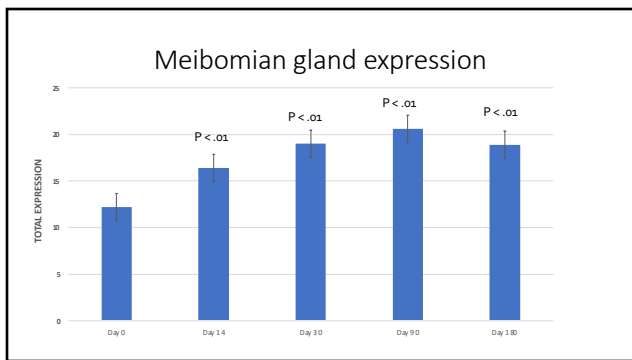
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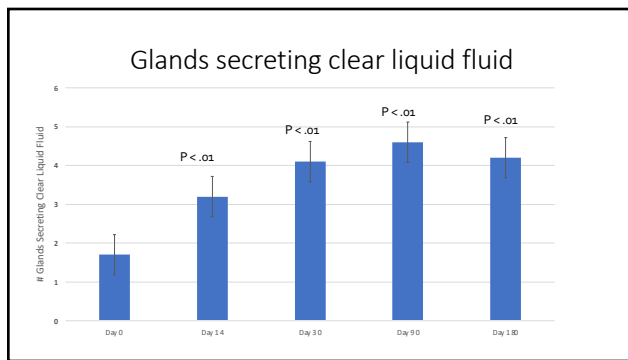
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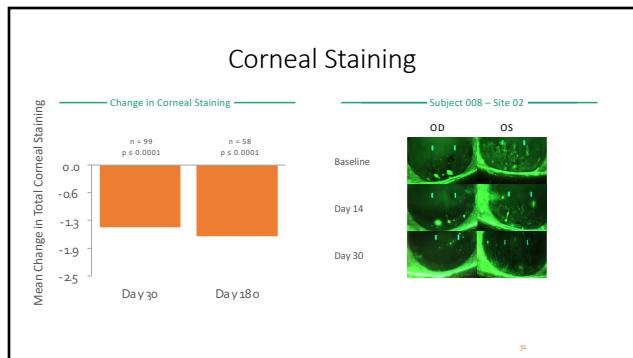
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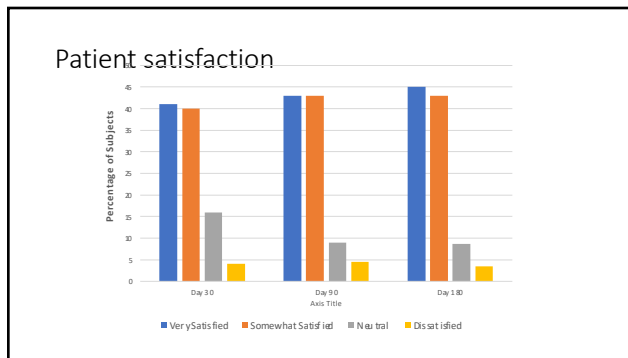
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### The First Open-Eye Warm Compress

**Effective & Consistent Heat**

TearRestore supplies therapeutic heat (40C) for a minimum of ten minutes every use. This ensures patients and doctors an effective treatment every time.

**Unique Convenience & Natural Expression**

TearRestore's design utilizes anatomical norms to target the eyelids while avoiding the globe. This permits the user to see and blink throughout treatment, resulting in improved compliance and natural meibomian gland expression.

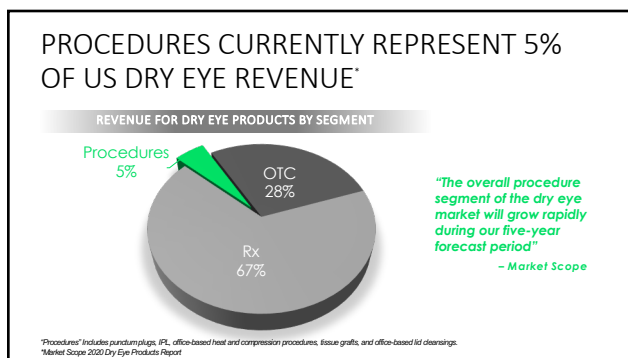
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## How Do You Simplify OTC Treatments?

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### In-Office Procedures are Growing!!

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## Vector Thermal Pulsation

### Long-Term (3 Year) Effects of a Single Thermal Pulsation System Treatment on Meibomian Gland Dysfunction and Dry Eye Symptoms

Abstract

**Objective:** The present study evaluated the long-term (3 years) effects of a single (1) vector thermal pulsation (VTP) treatment on asymptomatic patients with evaporative dry eye disease (DED) secondary to meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD).

**Methods:** In this prospective, cohort, observational, single-center study, signs (meibomian gland secretion [MGSS] scores and tear film break-up time [TBUT]) and symptoms (Ocular Surface Disease Index [OSDI] and Standard Patient Evaluation of Eye Dryness [SPEED]) questionnaires were administered to 30 patients at long-term follow-up (3 years) post-treatment. Baseline (BL) scores and 1 year post-VTP treatment are shown.

**Results:** Meibomian gland secretion scores increased from BL (26.0±4.6) to month 1 (32.1±1.3, P<0.001). Improvement persisted at 3 years (34.4±1.6, P<0.001). Meibomian gland secretion scores at 3 years (34.4±1.6) were significantly higher than BL (26.0±4.6, P<0.001), 1 month (32.1±1.3, P<0.001), and 2 years (32.5±1.4, P<0.001). OSDI scores decreased from BL (26.0±4.6) to 1 month (14.7±4.3, P<0.001) but returned to BL levels at 3 years (22.5±5.4, P>0.05). SPEED scores decreased from BL (13.4±1.0) to 1 month (6.5±1.3, P<0.001), and this improvement persisted at 3 years (9.5±1.6, P<0.001).

**Conclusions:** Thermal pulsation may be a simple, efficacious treatment option for DED secondary to MGD in that a single (1) treatment is associated with significant improvement in MGSS and OSDI scores for up to 3 years.

- Results
  - Meibomian gland secretion scores increased from BL (4.5±0.8) to 1 month (12.0±1.1, P<0.001), improvement persisted at 3 years (18.4±1.4) relative to BL (P<0.001).
  - OSDI scores decreased from BL (26.0±4.6) to 1 month (14.7±4.3, P<0.001) but returned to BL levels at 3 years (22.5±5.4, P>0.05).
  - SPEED scores decreased from BL (13.4±1.0) to 1 month (6.5±1.3, P<0.001), and this improvement persisted at 3 years (9.5±1.6, P<0.001).

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## A Novel, Targeted, Open Eye, Thermal Therapy and Meibomian Gland Clearance in the Treatment of Dry Eye:

### A Randomized Controlled Investigator masked Trial (OLYMPIA)

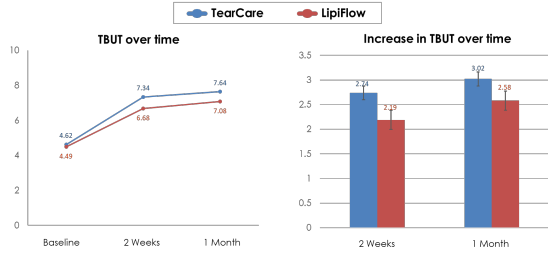
Jennifer M. Loh, MD, ABO; William B. Truttler, MD, ABO; Kavita P. Dhamdhare, MD, PhD; Marc R. Bloomenstein, OD; John A. Hovanesian, MD; Mitchell A. Jackson, MD, ABO; Bobby Saenz, OD

Presented by Jennifer M. Loh, MD, ABO; ASCRS May 16, 2020

Primary Endpoint: Tear Film Break-Up Time (TBUT)

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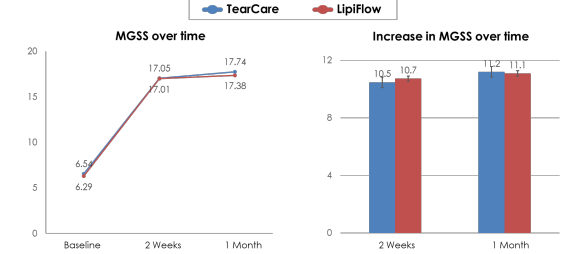
## Primary Endpoint: Tear Film Break-Up Time (TBUT)



- Statistically significant increase (p<0.0001) in mean TBUT in both groups at all f/u time points
- TearCare is non-inferior to LipiFlow

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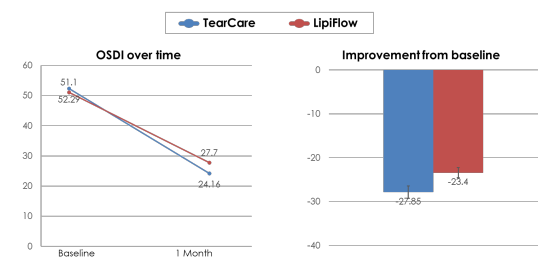
## Primary Endpoint: Meibomian Gland Secretion Score (MGSS)



- Statistically significant increase (p<0.0001) in mean MGSS in both groups at all f/u time points
- TearCare is non-inferior to LipiFlow

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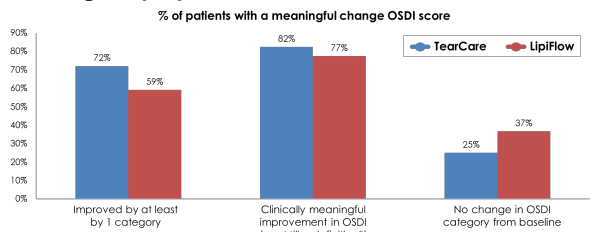
## Secondary Endpoint: Ocular Surface Disease Index (OSDI)



Statistically significant improvement (p<0.0001) in mean OSDI score compared to baseline

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## A greater proportion of TearCare patients showed meaningful symptom relief\*



72% of TearCare vs 59% for LipiFlow subjects improved by at least 1 OSDI category  
\*per Miller definition

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### Conclusions

**TearCare successfully met non-inferiority objective v. LipiFlow**


- ✓ 82% of TearCare subjects had clinically meaningful improvements in OSDI
- ✓ TBUT, MGSS, Conjunctival and Corneal staining, Glands Yielding any liquid, Glands Yielding clear liquid
- ✓ OSDI, SANDE, Eye Dryness Score

**A greater proportion of patients in TearCare group showed clinically meaningful symptomatic relief compared to LipiFlow group**

- ✓ 72% of TearCare vs 59% for LipiFlow subjects improved by at least 1 OSDI category
- ✓ 22% less use of lubricant drops throughout the study follow up in TearCare group


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### In-Office MGD Treatment



**Handheld iLux® device**

- Magnifier allows the user to **view the eyelid margin**
- **Warms** the eyelid tissue within a therapeutic target range to melt the meibum blocking the orifices, then **applies compression** to express the melted meibum through the orifices
- Amount of heat and pressure is under **direct control of the user**



**iLux® Smart Tip**

- **Sterile, single-patient-use** disposable tip
- **Inner and outer pads** are covered with a soft, biocompatible silicone material
- Contains **precision temperature sensors** that continually monitor inner and outer eyelid temperature and ensure therapeutic heat levels during treatment

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OC-2018-0001-14-406-016 PMSD: PMSD/2018-0001-14-406-016  
 Published online 2020 Feb 12. doi: 10.1002/ltl.12188

**Comparison of the iLUX and the LipiFlow for the Treatment of Meibomian Gland Dysfunction and Symptoms: A Randomized Clinical Trial**

Joseph T. Miller<sup>1</sup>, James Chen<sup>2</sup>, Marc Sturges<sup>3</sup>, John Chou<sup>4</sup>, and Jack A. Sullivan<sup>5</sup>

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**Abstract**

**Results**

Both devices significantly improved effectiveness outcomes, with no differences between the two devices. At the 4-week visit, mean MGS, TBUT, and OSDI scores improved at least 16.9 ± 11.5, 2.6 ± 3.2 s, and 28.0 ± 22.8, respectively, across treatment groups and treated eyes. Four device/procedure-related events occurred in the iLUX group, compared with none in the LipiFlow group, but there were no device-related adverse events that involved changes in lid margins, eyelids, or lash integrity. Corneal staining, intraocular pressure, and visual acuity did not differ in the two groups.

**Conclusion**

Both treatments produced significant improvements in meibomian gland function and symptoms. For all effectiveness measures, there were no statistically significant differences between the two treatments.

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### Does Not Cause Excessive Heating of the Eye

- An open-label safety study of iLUX® found **no sign of excessive heating** of the cornea, outer eyelid, or surrounding surface.\*
- Standard optometric assessments of the cornea and subjects' vision demonstrated **no corneal damage and minimal impact on vision!**\*

Tissue Site	Pre-heating temperature (°C)	Post-heating temperature (°C)	Change in temperature (°C)
Corneal	Maximum: 36.9 Mean: 36.0 ± 0.6	Maximum: 36.8 Mean: 37.7 ± 0.5	+1.8
Outer eyelid	Maximum: 37.4 Mean: 36.5 ± 0.5	Maximum: 40.6 Mean: 38.5 ± 0.8	+3.2
Surrounding surface	Maximum: 37.6 Mean: 36.8 ± 0.5	Maximum: 39.7 Mean: 38.2 ± 0.7	+2.1

\* Heating performed in the middle nasal and middle temporal zones in the upper and lower eyelids of each eye for 90 seconds in each zone.  
 Reference: 1. Miller JT, Chen J, Sturges M, Chou J, Sullivan JA. Safety parameters of a standard thermal heating and compression device for management of meibomian gland dysfunction. Presented at the ASCRS-ASFA Annual Meeting, April 13-17, 2018, Washington, D.C.

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### Systane® iLux® MGD Thermal Pulsation System

1 Week / 1 Month Study Design<sup>1</sup>

**Study Objective:**  
to assess changes in meibomian gland function and evaporative dry eye symptoms after treatment with Systane® iLux®

**Study Design:**  
non-randomized, open-label, multisite trial

**Subjects:**  
80 subjects

- **Primary endpoints**  
MGS and TBUT
- **Secondary endpoint**  
SPEED score and OSDI symptom scores

Assessed pre-treatment, and at 1 week and 1 month post-treatment

MGS, meibomian gland dysfunction.  
 Reference: 1. Allon data on file, 2011.

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### Systane® iLux® MGD Thermal Pulsation System Delivered Significant Improvements in 1 Week in a Clinical Study<sup>1</sup>

Significant improvements seen 1 week after treatment with Systane® iLux®

<p><b>Meibomian Gland Score</b> (P&lt;0.0001)</p> <p><b>315%</b> improvement</p> <p>Medial, temporal, nasal regions all improved</p>	<p><b>Tear break-up time</b> (P&lt;0.0001)</p> <p><b>71%</b> improvement</p>	<p><b>SPEED Questionnaire</b> (P&lt;0.0001)</p> <p><b>55%</b> improvement</p> <p>Improvement in all 8 sub-scores</p>	<p><b>OSDI Score</b> (P=0.0003)</p> <p><b>58%</b> improvement</p>
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**All improvements maintained at 1 month**

1. In a prospective, open-label, multicenter study of patients ≥18 years with MGD (n=30).  
 \*All score improvements that require patient experience of 50% eye before and after a treatment. Total SPEED score calculated through sum of all 8 items; total score value can vary from 0-28, with higher score indicating worse experience of dry eye.  
 MGS, meibomian gland dysfunction; OSDI, Ocular Surface Disease Index; SPEED, Standard Patient Evaluation of Eye Dryness.  
 Reference: 1. Allon data on file, 2011.

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### Safety of Systane® iLux® in 1 Week / 1 Month Study

In the non-randomized clinical study of the Systane® iLux® MGD Thermal Pulsation System<sup>1</sup>

- No adverse events or serious adverse events reported<sup>1</sup>**
- Pain scores increased post treatment, but returned to pre-treatment values one day post treatment<sup>1</sup>
- 1 week post treatment pain scores were significantly lower than pretreatment values (both eyes, P<0.0001)<sup>1</sup>**
- No clinically significant changes in IOP occurred immediately post-treatment or throughout follow-up<sup>1</sup>**
- No change in lid abnormalities associated with treatment<sup>1</sup>**

In a prospective, open-label, multicenter study of patients 18 years with MGD (n=140). MGD: meibomian gland dysfunction; OSDI: Ocular Surface Disease Index. Reference: 1. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2015.

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### Phase 4, 12-Month Follow-Up Study of Systane® iLux®<sup>1,2</sup>

**Study Objective:** compare meibomian gland function and impact of dry eye symptoms on quality of life of follow-up after treatment with Systane® iLux® and Lipiflow<sup>®</sup>

**Study Design:** prospective, randomized, parallel group, investigator-masked, multicenter, noninferiority study

**Subjects:** 236 subjects with MGD

**Endpoints:** MGS, IDEEL-SB, TBUT

Assessed at baseline, 2 weeks and 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months

2021 Annual Meeting, May 1-7, online

Alcon 50

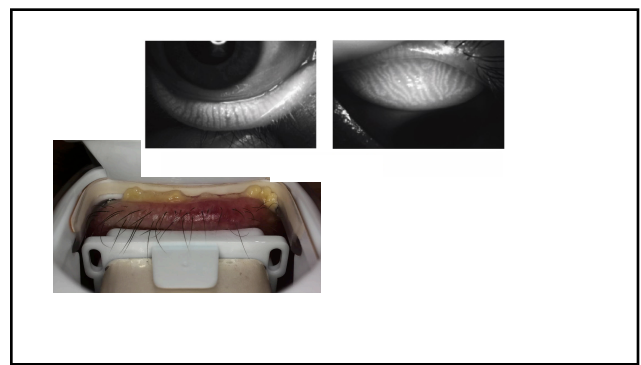
50

### Noninferiority Over 12 Months\* With Systane® iLux®<sup>1</sup>

IDEEL-SB, Impact of Dry Eye on Everyday Life; MGS, meibomian gland secretion; MGD, meibomian gland dysfunction; OSDI, Ocular Surface Disease Index

Alcon 51

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### Intense Pulsed Light

- The specific mechanism of action is not well understood but is believed to be partially due to the thermal heating of the meibum coupled with the therapeutic effects of treating superficial telangiectasia

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Clinical Ophthalmology

### Prospective evaluation of intense pulsed light and meibomian gland expression efficacy on relieving signs and symptoms of dry eye disease due to meibomian gland dysfunction

**Abstract**

**Stevens J, Daley J, Khandelwal H, Gattner J, Shanks C, Barhart J, Charvat J, Caviglioglio J.**

**Purpose:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of intense pulsed light (IPL) on relieving signs and symptoms of dry eye disease (DED) secondary to meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD).

**Methods:** In a prospective study conducted in two sites, 20 subjects (10 eyes) with DED secondary to MGD were enrolled. Major inclusion criteria consisted of at least two of the following: meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) on meibography (MG), meibomian gland secretion (MGS) on meibography (MG), meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) on meibography (MG), meibomian gland secretion (MGS) on meibography (MG), meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) on meibography (MG), meibomian gland secretion (MGS) on meibography (MG).

**Results:** In 20 eyes with DED secondary to MGD, IPL treatment significantly improved signs and symptoms of DED secondary to MGD. These results suggest the efficacy of IPL + MGD in relieving signs and symptoms of DED secondary to MGD.

**Keywords:** dry eye, meibomian gland dysfunction, intense pulsed light

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**Analysis of Cytokine Levels in Tears and Clinical Correlations After Intense Pulsed Light Treating Meibomian Gland Dysfunction**

**Results:**

- All of the inflammatory markers declined in value compared to baselines.
- IL-17A and IL-6 showed statistically significant decreases compared to sham treatment at each measured time point.
- PGE2 showed statistically significant decreases compared to sham at week 12.
- Results showed that the expressions of IL-17A and IL-6 correlated well with ocular surface parameters of the lower eyelid before IPL.

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**Intense Pulsed Light Therapy in the Treatment of Meibomian Gland Dysfunction: Current Perspectives**

**Abstract**

Dry eye disease (DED) is among the most common conditions encountered during ophthalmic practice, reducing patient quality of life and visual productivity. Most of DED cases have an evaporative component originated from a meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD). Conventional treatments such as tear substitutes, warm compresses, topical anti-inflammatory agents and/or antibiotics often are not able to provide a complete and long-term relief of symptoms and signs. Intense pulsed light (IPL) has been widely used in the field of dermatology to treat various skin conditions, and it has been recently introduced in the ophthalmic practice for the management of DED due to MGD. To date, several clinical studies showed positive results of IPL as adjuvant therapy for DED in terms of both safety and efficacy. The treatment is usually well accepted among patients for its non-invasive nature; very rare are the major adverse reactions. Moreover, results can be maintained over time with periodic sessions of IPL. This review summarizes the clinical outcomes of IPL therapy in MGD patients pointing out its potential role in the therapeutic algorithm of the disease. Further clinical investigations are desirable to identify factors able to predict the positive outcomes of the procedure and therefore to select in advance those patients who benefit from IPL therapy.

**Key words:** intense pulsed light, meibomian gland disease, dry eye disease, evaporative dry eye

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**Dry Eye and More!!**

Photo Courtesy of Laura Perriman, MD aka "The Dry Eye Master"

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**Dry Eye and More!!**

**Ocular and Facial Rosacea-related CDED**

Improvements:

- lid redness, lid thickening
- posterior margin hyperkeratinization, telangectasias
- MGE: score and quality
- conjunctival injection
- staining, TBUT, osmolarity
- SPEED

Photo Courtesy of Laura Perriman, MD aka "The Dry Eye Master"

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**Radiofrequency**

- FDA cleared (K130689) and indicated for use in dermatological and general surgical procedures for electrocoagulation and hemostasis; creation of lesions in nerve tissue.
- Associated with improving skin laxity and wrinkle reduction using a Radio Frequency Thermistor Heating Device

Slide Courtesy of Drs. Christensen and Häuser

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**LLLT & LED Technology**

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### Photobiostimulation


**Red light** is absorbed in the cellular mitochondria and stimulates ATP production leading to an increased cellular action and enhanced cell vitality.

The 633 nm emitted light is potentially absorbed by fibroblasts, with a subsequent increase in the speed and efficiency of neo-collagen synthesis. **Turnover of aged collagen and elastin fibers** results from light stimulation of metalloproteinases (MMP's).

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### Advanced Technology




- Computer Driven
- Select Level of MGD 1-4 = Calculates correct Energy and Time (15min Max)
- Apply Comfortable Mask
- Both Eyes/Lids Treated Simultaneously
- Automated Treatment Starts & Stops with Countdown Timer
- Visible Results Possible for Patient after 1st Treatment


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### Like With Lasers – Color Matters



**BLUE LIGHT:**  
*Purification action.* The blue light is recognized to be the ideal wavelength to solicit porphyrins to obtain a bacteriostatic effect with a consequent **elimination of bacteria**



**YELLOW LIGHT:**  
Specific action on the lymphatic system. The yellow light stimulates cell's metabolism promoting a **de-toxifying action** to relief swelling conditions.



**RED LIGHT:**  
Stimulates production of collagen and elastin. Through the **EQUINOX LLLT®** technology, the red light is absorbed by mitochondria and **stimulates ATP increasing cellular action, enhancing it's activity.**

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### Ophthalmology Times

CUTTING-EDGE ADVANCEMENTS

OphthalmologyTimes • Ophthalmology • Drug Therapy • Ophthalmology

**Red light technology increases tear break-up time in dry eye patients**

More than 90% of subjects report improvement in symptoms in study

November 15, 2015 By Lynda Charters, Rolando Topoi MD




Take-home message: Treatment with red light technology resulted in a significant improvement in the tear break-up time in the vast majority of patients. This may be a future light treatment for the improvement of dry eye disease in patients with meibomian gland dysfunction.

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### Treatments For More Conditions

- Resolution of Recalcitrant Chalazia

- 1 Treatment >>>> Resolution of 46% Of Eyes
- 2 Treatments >>>> Resolution of 92% Of Eyes


**WITH STANDARD RED EQUINOX LLLT MASK**

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### Treatments For More Conditions

- Rosacea



← **STEP 1 – BLUE MASK**  
The BLUE wavelength stimulates porphyrins to create a **natural anti-bacterial action**




**STEP 2 – RED MASK →**  
The RED wavelength stimulates mitochondria that produces ATP. It increases and improves cellular activity to works on inflammation

66

66

### Treatments For More Conditions

- Demodex



← **STEP 1 – BLUE MASK**  
The BLUE wavelength stimulates porphyrins to create a natural anti-bacterial action



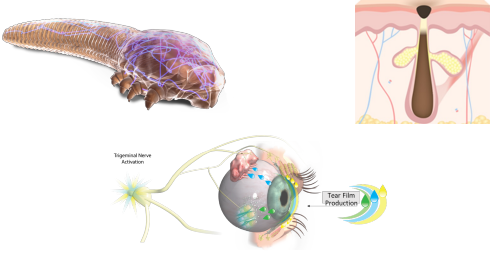
**STEP 2 – RED MASK →**  
The RED wavelength stimulates mitochondria that produces ATP. It increases and improves cellular activity to works on inflammation

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## With So Many Treatment Options for MGD, How Do you Choose?

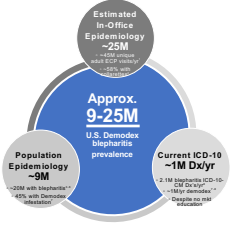
68

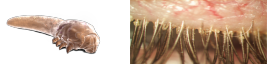
### Future Innovations in MGD / Blepharitis



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### Blepharitis is a Large and Underserved Market in Eye Care






Largely Undiagnosed, Education Needed	~58% of all patients in the eye clinic have collarettes <sup>1</sup> but current impression of only 10-15% of blepharitis cases
Significant head start on diagnosis	2.1M ICD-10 Blepharitis Dx's/yr <sup>2</sup>
Blepharitis commonly Causes Eyelids to become red, irritated and itchy, with debris on the eyelashes <sup>3</sup>	
Blepharitis Can Lead To Blurring of vision, missing or misdirected eyelashes, and inflammation of other eye tissue, particularly the cornea <sup>4</sup>	
Blepharitis and Surgery Important factor for maximizing surgical outcomes: 67% of cataract patients have Demodex blepharitis <sup>5</sup>	
Contact Lens Drop-out #1 reason people discontinue contact lens wear is discomfort. Studies have shown a direct correlation between Demodex blepharitis and CL intolerance. <sup>6,7</sup>	
Prescription Treatment	None

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### Demodex is an Underlying Cause of Blepharitis

- 2 Species of Mites Contribute to Blepharitis
  - Demodex follicularum: eyelash follicles
  - Demodex brevis: meibomian glands in eyelid
- Demodex Implicated in 45% of Blepharitis Cases
  - Meta-analysis of 11 studies and 4,741 pts<sup>1</sup>
- Demodex Overgrowth Causes Disease in 3 Ways
  - Mechanical: overcrowding, obstruction, eyelash loss, irritation
  - Chemical: digestive enzymes and waste
  - Bacterial: inflammation from surface/gut bacteria



EyeLid

Lash Follicle

Meibomian Gland

D. foll

D. brevis

Thorp. Ophthalmic Epidemiology. 1973; 85-102, 2012

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### Collarettes Are Pathognomonic Sign of Demodex Infestation

**Collarettes Are Composed of Mite Waste Products and Eggs<sup>1</sup>**

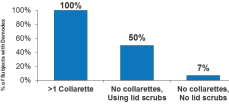
- Regurgitated undigested material combined with epithelial cells, keratin, and mite eggs
- Contain digestive enzymes, which cause irritation

**Easily and Rapidly Diagnosed with Standard Eye Exam**

- Demodex mites found on **100%** of lashes with collarettes<sup>2</sup>
- Collarettes found in ~ 58% eye care patients<sup>3</sup>



**% of Subjects with Demodex**



1. Farnham 2018  
2. Cole et al. Invest Ophthalm and Vis Sci. September 2005. Vol. 46, No. 3093-3094.

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### Half of All Patients Entering Clinic have Collarettes

- Since Demodex is newly appreciated as a cause of blepharitis, Tarsus performed the first-ever Demodex blepharitis in-clinic prevalence study
- Methods: every consecutive patient seen by the clinic is evaluated for
  - Presence of collarettes (the pathognomonic sign and key diagnostic for Demodex blepharitis)
  - Whether they have an active Rx for dry eye (Restasis® or Xidra®)
- N = 1,121 consecutive patients, 8 clinics (MDs and ODs, geographically diverse)

**Prevalence of Collarettes**  
(Pooled patient data, N = 1,121)

Category	% of Patients
% No with Collarettes	58%
% No on Restasis/Xidra	20%
% No with both	13%

**Prevalence Distribution by Clinic**

Category	% of Patients
% Pts with Collarettes	76%
% Pts on Restasis/Xidra	29%
% Pts with both	39%

Note: Data from Tarsus Collarette Prevalence Study

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### Conventional Treatment Methods Are Not Effective in Managing Demodex Blepharitis

- Cannot be killed by Baby shampoo (common lid hygiene)
- Cannot be killed by 10% Propiodone iodine (surgical scrub)
- Cannot be killed by 75% alcohol
- Cannot be killed by Macrolides such as erythromycin (antibiotic)
- Cannot be killed by Metronidazole (for Rosacea treatment)
- Cannot be killed by 4% Pilocarpine (for lice treatment)
- Killed dose-dependently by Tea Tree Oil (TTO), derived from Melaleuca alternifolia

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### Tea Tree Oil

- Compounding Pharmacy
- 50% Solution of Tea Tree Oil
- 20% Solution of Tea Tree Ointment
- Tea Tree Shampoo
- Tea Tree Soap
- Numerous OTC treatments

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### TP-03 is a Novel Drug Designed to Treat Demodex Blepharitis by Eradicating Mites and Collarettes:

	<b>Product Form</b>	Multi-dose eye drop solution bottle, preserved
	<b>Targeted Use</b>	Treatment of Demodex blepharitis
	<b>MOA</b>	Paralysis and death of Demodex mites
	<b>Diagnosis</b>	Collarettes identified in standard eye examination
	<b>Dosing</b>	BID* for 6 weeks
	<b>Efficacy Goal</b>	1° collarette cure, 2° mite eradication, 2° redness + collarette cure
	<b>Safety Goal</b>	Well-tolerated safety profile

© 2020 Pharmaceutical Research and Services, Tarsus, Inc. \*\*\*Not FDA Approved

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### Cure of Collarettes with BID Use of TP-03

**Baseline**

**Day 28**

\*\*\*Not FDA Approved

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### TP-03 for Demodex Blepharitis

- Single-arm, open-label study that evaluated the safety and efficacy of TP-03 in 15 participants with Demodex Blepharitis over 28 days
- Collarette Score:** The mean grade showed statistically significant improvement from baseline to day 14 and had a 2-grade improvement overall on a 4-point scale
- Mite Eradication:** The average mites/lash showed statistically significant improvement from baseline to day 14 and had a 10-fold improvement from baseline
- No treatment-related adverse events were reported

\*\*\*Not FDA Approved

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### The Parasympathetic Nervous System (PNS) Is a Critical Regulator of the Lacrimal Functional Unit (LFU) and a Healthy Tear Film

**Did you know?**  
34% of basal tear production is due to inhaled air through the nasal passage<sup>1</sup>

The **parasympathetic nervous system** regulates the Lacrimal Functional Unit (LFU) and Tear Film Production via the Trigeminal Nerve accessible within the nose

<sup>1</sup>Gupta A, Heigle T, Pflugfelder SC. Nociceptive stimulation of aqueous tear production. *Cornea*. 1997 Nov;16(8):645-6.  
 Van der Werf F, de A N S, Bajjet B, Prins M A A R T E N, & Otto J A. (1996). Innervation of the lacrimal gland in the cynomolgus monkey: a retrograde tracing study. *Journal of neurocytology*, 25(9), 351.  
 Luo X, M S, Zhou Q, Murphy R B, Greene M L, & Ryan P. (2001). Parasympathetic innervation of the meibomian glands in rats. *Investigative ophthalmology & visual science*, 42(11), 2434-2441.  
 Curti D A, McCarthy D M, Menzer H J, Neider T L, Chung E H, & Zieske J D. (1995). Localization of nerves adjacent to goblet cells in rat conjunctiva. *Current eye research*, 14(11), 999-1004.

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### OC-01 Demonstrated Statistically Significant Improvement in Signs and Symptoms of Dry Eye Disease (DED)

Note: The CAE was used for this measurement.

**Mean Change from Baseline in Schirmer's Score – Week 4**

Primary Sign Endpoint

Group	Mean Change (mm)
Placebo (n=43)	3.2
OC-01 0.1% (n=46)	11.8

**Mean Change from Baseline in Eye Dryness Score (EDS) – Week 4**

Secondary Symptom Endpoint

Group	Mean Change (mm)
Placebo (n=43)	-5.6
OC-01 0.1% (n=46)	-19

ITT-observed population ANCOVA, Least Squares means

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### OC-01 Demonstrated Significant Difference from Placebo in Mean Change in Corneal Staining in Total, Nasal and Inferior Regions

Mean Change from Baseline in Cornea Staining Score – 0.1% @ Week 4

Region	Placebo (n=43)	OC-01 0.1% (n=46)	P-value
Total	2.33	0.91	P<0.05
Temporal	0.42	0.15	
Central	0.44	0.2	
Nasal	0.44	0.04	P<0.05
Superior	0.09	0.11	
Inferior	0.93	0.41	P<0.05

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### OC-01 is Well Tolerated with Zero Ocular Side Effects

Adverse Events Potentially Related to OC-01 >5% of subjects

Occurred at least once after any installation	OC-01 (0.1%) (n=48)	Placebo (n=42)
Sneeze	38 (79)	0
Cough	6 (13)	0
Throat irritation	7 (15)	0
Instillation site irritation	8 (17)	0
Pharynx dysaesthesia	4 (8)	0

- All events transient and self-limiting immediately following administration
- All events mild (94%) or moderate (4%) in severity. No severe events.
- No ocular adverse events; Side effects consistent with that of any nasal spray (sneeze, cough, irritation)

On Track for Initiating Phase 3 in 2019

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### ONSET-2 Top Line Results

- Primary endpoint: Statistically significant improvement in percentage of subjects gaining > 10mm on Schirmer's Score in both doses tested (0.6 mg/ml and 1.2 mg/ml) as compared to control (p<0.0001). Consistent outcome with ONSET-1
- Statistically significant improvement in mean change in Schirmer's Score in both doses tested as compared to control (p<0.0001). Consistent outcome with ONSET-1
- Eye Dryness Score measured in the normal clinic environment demonstrated SS improvement as compared to control in the 1.2 mg/ml dose group at Week 4 (p<0.009) and as early as Week 2 (p=0.002)
- Most common AE was sneeze, which was predominantly transient and mild

\*\*\*NDA filed 3/2/21

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### NOV03 Perfluorohexyloctane - Dual Mode of Action

**Bioavailability**

penetration of the API into the cornea

Blocked Meibomian glands

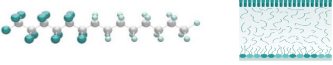
NOV03 inflow into the glands

NOV03 solubilizes numerous meibomian components

NOV03 relieves blockage and increases outflow from the glands

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**NOV03 Perfluorohexyloctane**



	Water-based Technologies	NOV03
Drop Size	~ 40-50µL (Blink reflex activated)	< 12 µL (Blink reflex not activated)
Drug Residual Time	Brief 3-5 min	Long ~ 240 min
Spreading	High surface tension hinders spreading	Fast spreading Film forming properties
Other features	Usually Preserved	Preservative free No vision blurring

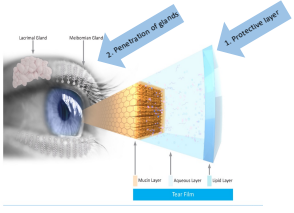
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**NOV03 – Dual Mode of Action**

Phase 3: ESSENCE-2  
0.1% CsA in EyeSol

Water-free  
Preservative Free

Penetration of meibomian glands and potentially solubilizing blocked Meibum



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**NOV03 has been Evaluated in Several Small Clinical Studies in the EU**

- Steven P, Scherer D, Krösser S, Beckert M, Cursiefen C, Kaercher T. Semifluorinated alkane eye drops for treatment of dry eye disease—A prospective, multicenter, noninterventional study. *J Ocular Pharmacol Ther* 2015;31(8):498-503. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26296040/>
- Steven P, Augustin AJ, Geerling G, et al. Semifluorinated alkane eye drops for treatment of dry eye disease due to meibomian gland disease. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther* 2017;33(9):678-685. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28922088/>
- Eberwein P, Krösser S, Steven P. Semifluorinated alkane eye drops in chronic ocular graftversus-host disease: A prospective, multicenter, noninterventional study. *Ophthalm Res*. 2020;63:50-58.
- Garhofer G, Schmidl D, Werkmeister RM, et al. Influence of perfluorohexyloctane containing eye drops on tear film thickness in patients with mild to moderate dry eye disease. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2018;59(9):941. <https://iovs.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2689663&resultClick=1>

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**A Randomized Clinical Study (SEEKASE) to Assess Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of NOV03 for Treatment of Dry Eye Disease**

Joseph Tausch, MD<sup>1</sup>, David L. Wilson, MD<sup>2</sup>, Kenneth Soff, MD<sup>3</sup>, Jang, S. Myoung, MD<sup>4</sup>, Alexander Wilton, PhD<sup>5</sup>, and Joseph Kohnen, PhD<sup>6</sup> for the SEEKASE study group

**Abstract**

**Background:** The SEEKASE study investigated the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of NOV03 (semifluorinated alkane eye drops) in patients with moderate to severe dry eye disease (DED) compared with a vehicle control.

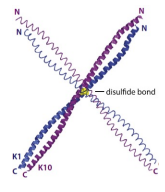
**Methods:** SEEKASE was a prospective, multicenter, randomized, controlled, noninterventional clinical study. A total of 100 patients (50 in each group) were randomized to receive NOV03 or vehicle control eye drops. The primary endpoint was the mean change in the tear film breakup time (TFBT) at baseline and at 4, 8, and 12 weeks. Secondary endpoints included the mean change in the mean tear film thickness (MFT) and the mean change in the mean tear film lipid layer thickness (MFLD).

**Results:** The study was completed on time. Change from baseline in TFBT was significantly greater in the NOV03 group compared with the vehicle control group at 4, 8, and 12 weeks. Change from baseline in MFT and MFLD was significantly greater in the NOV03 group compared with the vehicle control group at 4, 8, and 12 weeks. The mean change in TFBT was significantly greater in the NOV03 group compared with the vehicle control group at 4, 8, and 12 weeks. The mean change in MFT and MFLD was significantly greater in the NOV03 group compared with the vehicle control group at 4, 8, and 12 weeks.

**Conclusion:** The SEEKASE study demonstrated the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of NOV03 in patients with moderate to severe DED compared with a vehicle control.

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**TARGETING ABERRANT KERATIN**  
Unblocking Glands and Disruption of Keratin Plaques Within Meibum Matrix




- Thermal denaturing**  
Disulfide bonds are comparatively strong and require considerable thermal energy to break, >144 °C
- Chemical denaturing**  
Readily achieved chemically with a mild disulfide bond disrupting agent, i.e. keratolytic

Other points from the slide:  
 - Keratins are helical structural proteins that make up hair, nails, and skin.  
 - Extremely resilient and insoluble.  
 - Disulfide bond cross linking hardens structures to give strength and durability.

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**WHAT ARE KERATOLYTICS?**  
Agents that soften and shed the skin epithelium or horny outer layer of skin through the process of breaking down keratin

- Similar to the lid margin, secretory gland hyperkeratinization plays an important role in various skin disorders
- Comedonal lesions in acne are inspissated hair follicles, filled with comedocytes, sebum, and other debris
- Keratolytic treatments are used to shed dead comedocytes, loosen the sebum plug, and prevent the formation of inflammatory papules and pustules



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### KERATOLYTICS

Taking a Dermatological Approach to treating Ocular Surface Diseases

A variety of keratolytics are used to treat dermatological issues

- ✓ Urea
- ✓ BHA (Salicylic acid)
- ✓ AHA (fruit acids, glycolic acid)
- ✓ Selenium Sulfide (SeS2)

Topical retinoids convey a concentration-dependent reduction in comedonal lesions, much like selenium sulfide in the treatment of MGD



The Meibomian gland can be regarded as a "hair follicle without a hair shaft"

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### AZR-MD-001 (SELENIUM SULFIDE)

Triple MOA for the treatment of MGD

A potent keratolytic, with a unique MoA compared to traditional keratolytic agents, such as urea, AHA and BHA

**Keratostatic**

Slows down both the rate of keratinocyte proliferation and keratin production!

**Keratolytic**

Softens keratin plug by breaking down disulfide (S-S) bonds, alleviating hyperkeratinization that leads to blockage of Meibomian glands!

**Lipogenesis**

Stimulates lipogenesis to increase the quantity of lipids produced by the Meibomian glands!

**AZR-MD-001 TRIPLE MOA**

Decrease meibomian gland hyperkeratinization of ducts and orifices, loosen meibomian gland blockages, and increase secretion of meibomian gland lipids

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### Conclusions

- Exciting era for treatments in lid margin disease
- Only non-obvious if you don't look and express
- Identify and treat the root cause of dry eye disease
- Consider current and innovative treatments for MGD / Blepharitis

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### Questions??

wowhitley@eyecareassociatesnv.com

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