

# Latest Updates

## Dry Eye Disease & Omega 3



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# Alice T. Epitropoulos MD

## Disclosures

### Speaker & Consultant

Alcon/Novartis  
Allergan/Abbvie  
AMO/J&J/TearScience  
Bausch & Lomb  
Dompe  
EyeVance  
Kala Pharmaceuticals  
OTX  
Oyster Point  
Physician Recommended  
Nutriceuticals  
SUN Ophthalmics  
Tarsus  
TearLab Corp

### Consultant

Biotissue  
BlephEx  
Bruder  
EyePoint  
Imprimis  
Omeros  
SightSciences  
Visus  
Zeiss

### Contracted Research

PRN  
Ocular Therapeutix  
Kala pharmaceuticals  
B&L  
TearLab Corporation

### Property Rights/Patent Holder

EpiGlare Tester



# Dry Eye Disease


One of the Most Common Reasons Patients Visit an ECP<sup>1</sup>

344 M  WORLDWIDE ESTIMATE OF DED<sup>2</sup>

30 M  DED SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY US ADULTS<sup>3,4</sup>

16 M  DIAGNOSED WITH DED<sup>5</sup>

1.5 M  TREATED WITH A PRESCRIPTION<sup>6</sup>

  
DRY EYE DISEASE IS UNDER-DIAGNOSED AND UNDER TREATED

1. Nichols KK et al. *Inv Ophthalmol & Vis Sci.* 2016;57:2975-2982.

2. 2016 Dry Eye Products Market Scope Report: A Global Market Analysis for 2015-2021. Market Scope. 2016:1-213.

3. Paulsen AJ et al. *Am J Ophthalmol.* 2014;157(4):799-806.

4. US Census Bureau. Annual estimates of the resident population for selected age groups by sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014. Available at: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>. Accessed May 4, 2018.

5. Data on file. 6. Steinberg D et al. *Equity Research Americas.* May 18, 2017:1-38.

# Questionnaire

D  
S  
P  
E  
E

## SPEED Questionnaire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)  
 DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F

Report the type of **SYMPTOMS** you experience and when they occur:

SYMPTOMS	AT THIS VISIT		WITHIN PAST 72 HRS		WITHIN PAST 3 MONTHS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dryness, Grittiness or Scratchiness						
Soreness or Irritation						
Burning or Watering						
Eye Fatigue						

Report the **FREQUENCY** of the above-checked symptoms as Never, Sometimes, Often or Constant using the numbering system below:

SYMPTOMS	0	1	2	3
Dryness, Grittiness or Scratchiness				
Soreness or Irritation				
Burning or Watering				
Eye Fatigue				

0 = Never, 1 = Sometimes, 2 = Often, 3 = Constant

Report the **SEVERITY** of your Symptoms using the rating list below:

SYMPTOMS	0	1	2	3	4
Dryness, Grittiness or Scratchiness					
Soreness or Irritation					
Burning or Watering					
Eye Fatigue					

- 0 = No problems
- 1 = Tolerable – not perfect but not uncomfortable
- 2 = Uncomfortable – irritating but does not interfere with my day
- 3 = Bothersome – irritating and interferes with my day
- 4 = Intolerable – unable to perform my daily tasks

Do you use drops and/or ointment? \_\_\_\_ What drops do you use? \_\_\_\_\_

O  
S  
D  
I

## Ocular Surface Disease Index® (OSDI®)<sup>2</sup>

Ask your patients the following 12 questions, and circle the number in the box that best represents each answer. Then, fill in boxes A, B, C, D, and E according to the instructions beside each.

Have you experienced any of the following during the last week?	All of the time	Most of the time	Half of the time	Some of the time	None of the time
1. Eyes that are sensitive to light? ..	4	3	2	1	0
2. Eyes that feel gritty? .....	4	3	2	1	0
3. Painful or sore eyes? .....	4	3	2	1	0
4. Blurred vision? .....	4	3	2	1	0
5. Poor vision? .....	4	3	2	1	0

Subtotal score for answers 1 to 5 (A)

Have problems with your eyes limited you in performing any of the following during the last week?	All of the time	Most of the time	Half of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	N/A
6. Reading? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A
7. Driving at night? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A
8. Working with a computer or bank machine (ATM)? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A
9. Watching TV? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A

Subtotal score for answers 6 to 9 (B)

Have your eyes felt uncomfortable in any of the following situations during the last week?	All of the time	Most of the time	Half of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	N/A
10. Windy conditions? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A
11. Places or areas with low humidity (very dry)? .....	4	3	2	1	0	N/A
12. Areas that are air conditioned? ...	4	3	2	1	0	N/A

Subtotal score for answers 10 to 12 (C)

Add subtotals A, B, and C to obtain D (D = sum of scores for all questions answered) (D)

Total number of questions answered (do not include questions answered N/A) (E)

Please turn over the questionnaire to calculate the patient's final OSDI® score.

# Current Options Diagnosing & Evaluating Dry Eye

## Point of Care Testing

- Tear osmolarity
- MMP-9 testing
- Interferometry
- Dynamic illumination of MGs
- Advanced corneal topography



# Empower Technicians to perform POC

- Tear Osmolarity & MMP9
  - Before any eye drops
- Meibography
- Improves ability to diagnose and classify OSD



# InflammaDry

Detects MMP9

Inflammatory Marker - elevated in tears of patients with DED!

**85%** Sensitivity<sup>2</sup>

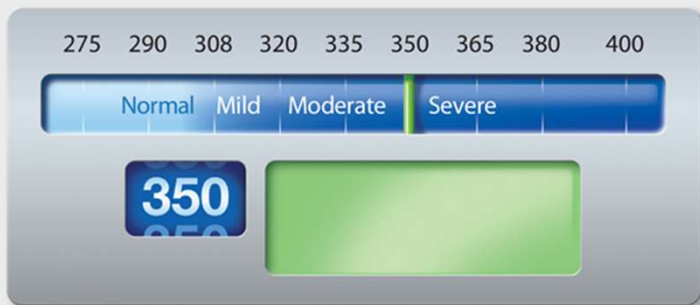


**94%** Specificity<sup>2</sup>

# Tear Osmolarity

Evaluates dry eye severity & therapeutic response

- OSD
- Hyperosmolarity
- Unstable Tear Film



# Effect of tear osmolarity on repeatability of keratometry for cataract surgery planning



Alice T. Epitropoulos, MD, Cynthia Matossian, MD, Gregg J. Berdy, MD, Ranjan P. Malhotra, MD,  
Richard Potvin, OD

Measurements in patients presenting for cataract surgery.

**SETTING:** Three clinical practices.

**DESIGN:** Observational prospective nonrandomized study.

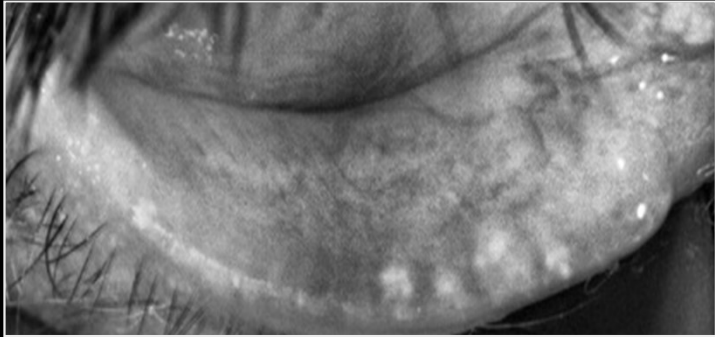
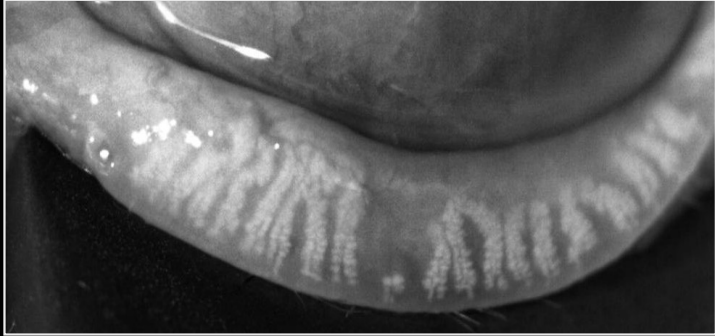
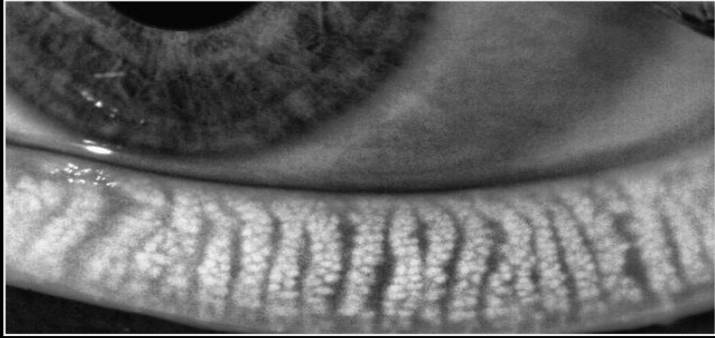
**METHODS:** Subjects were prospectively recruited based on tear osmolarity (Tearlab Osmolarity System); that is, osmolarity more than 316 mOsm/L in at least 1 eye (hyperosmolar) and osmolarity less than 308 mOsm/L in both eyes (normal). The baseline K value was measured, and a second measurement was taken on the same instrument (IOLMaster) within 3 weeks of the first. Variability in average K, calculated corneal astigmatism using vector analysis, and intraocular lens (IOL) sphere power calculations were compared between groups.

**RESULTS:** The hyperosmolar group (50 subjects) had a statistically significantly higher variability in the average K reading ( $P = .05$ ) than the normal group (25 subjects) and a statistically significantly higher percentage of eyes with a 1.0 diopter (D) or greater difference in the measured corneal astig-

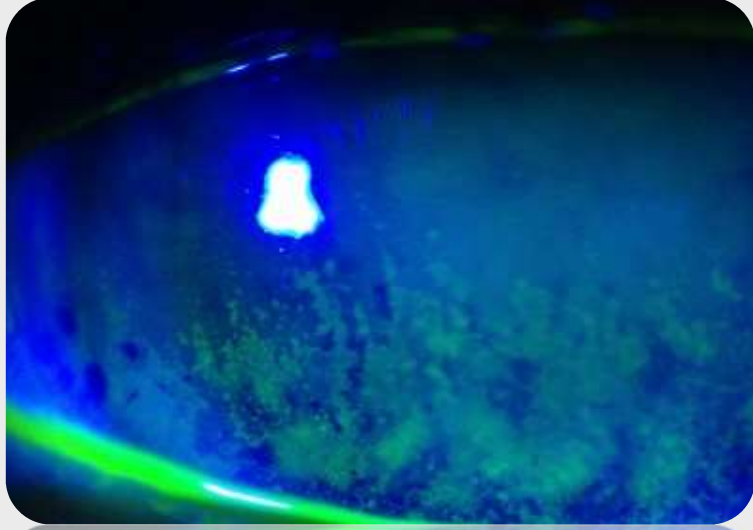
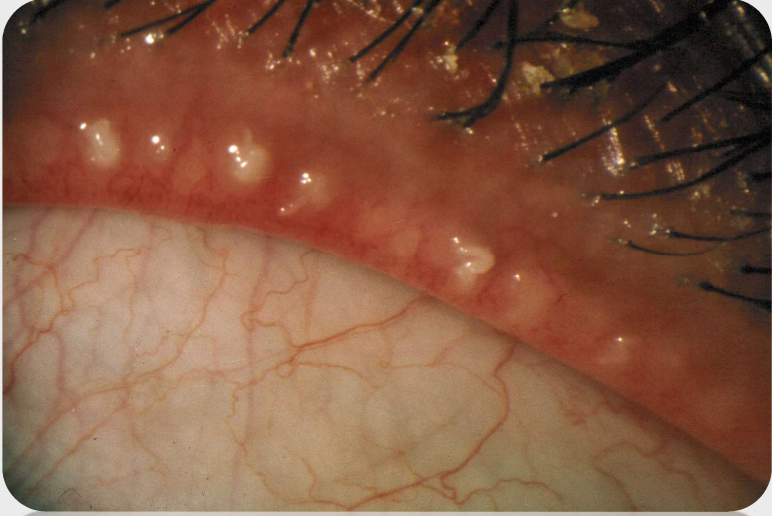
**CONCLUSIONS:** Significantly more variability in average K and anterior corneal astigmatism was observed in the hyperosmolar group, with significant resultant differences in IOL power calculations. Variability was not significantly different when subjects were grouped by self-reported dry

ness in the hyperosmolar group, with significant resultant differences in IOL power calculations. Variability was not significantly different when subjects were grouped by self-reported dry

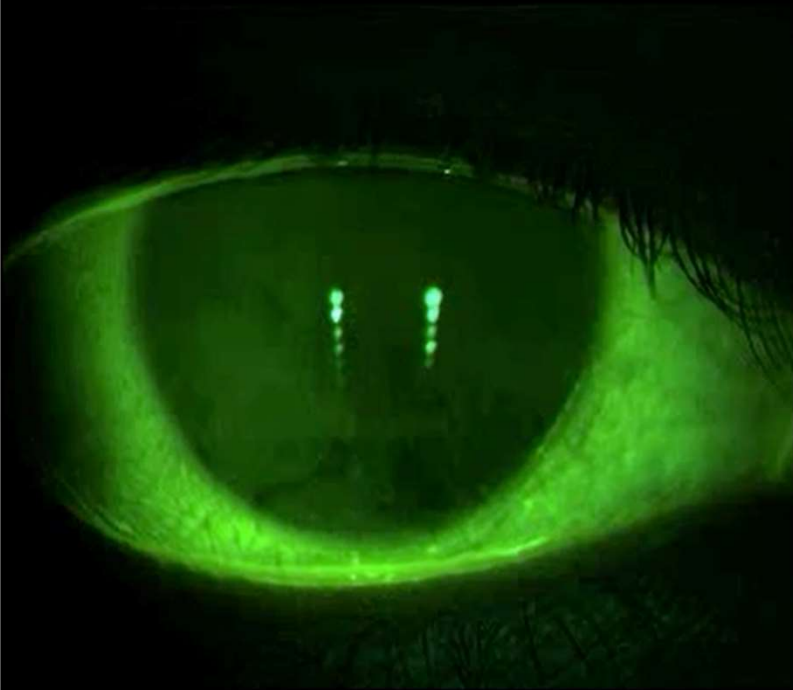
# Screen for MGD



# Careful slit lamp biomicroscopy



# Evaporative Dry Eye - MGD



UNTREATED MGD



TREATED MGD

Video courtesy Ocusoft

# Identify Influential Factors that may exacerbate DED



Visual Tasking  
(e.g. PC use)



Systemic Medications  
(e.g. anti-histamines)



Alcohol  
(e.g. beer)



Arid Conditions  
(e.g., Midwest)



Windy Environments  
(e.g., AC, forced heat)



Pollutants  
(e.g., exhaust, smog)

# Identify

other underlying high-risk diseases or medications?

- Thorough medication history
  - Antihistamines/Decongestants/Antidepressants
  - Eye drops – **GLAUCOMA!!!**
- Systemic history
  - Sjogren's (Sjo test)
  - Rheumatoid
  - Rosacea
  - Thyroid dysfunction
  - Lupus
  - Hormonal changes



# Treatment Options Today...

Therapeutic approach making headway

## **Current Therapies**

- Omega-3 supplements
- Cyclosporine
- Lifitigrastr
- Steroids
- Lid cleansers
- Oxervate – NK
- Serum Tears

## **In-office therapies**

- Microblepharoexfoliation
- Thermal pulsation
- iLux
- Tear Care
- Maskin probing
- IPL
- Punctal occlusion
- Amniotic membrane

# ...In the Future

## Pipeline

### **In Development**

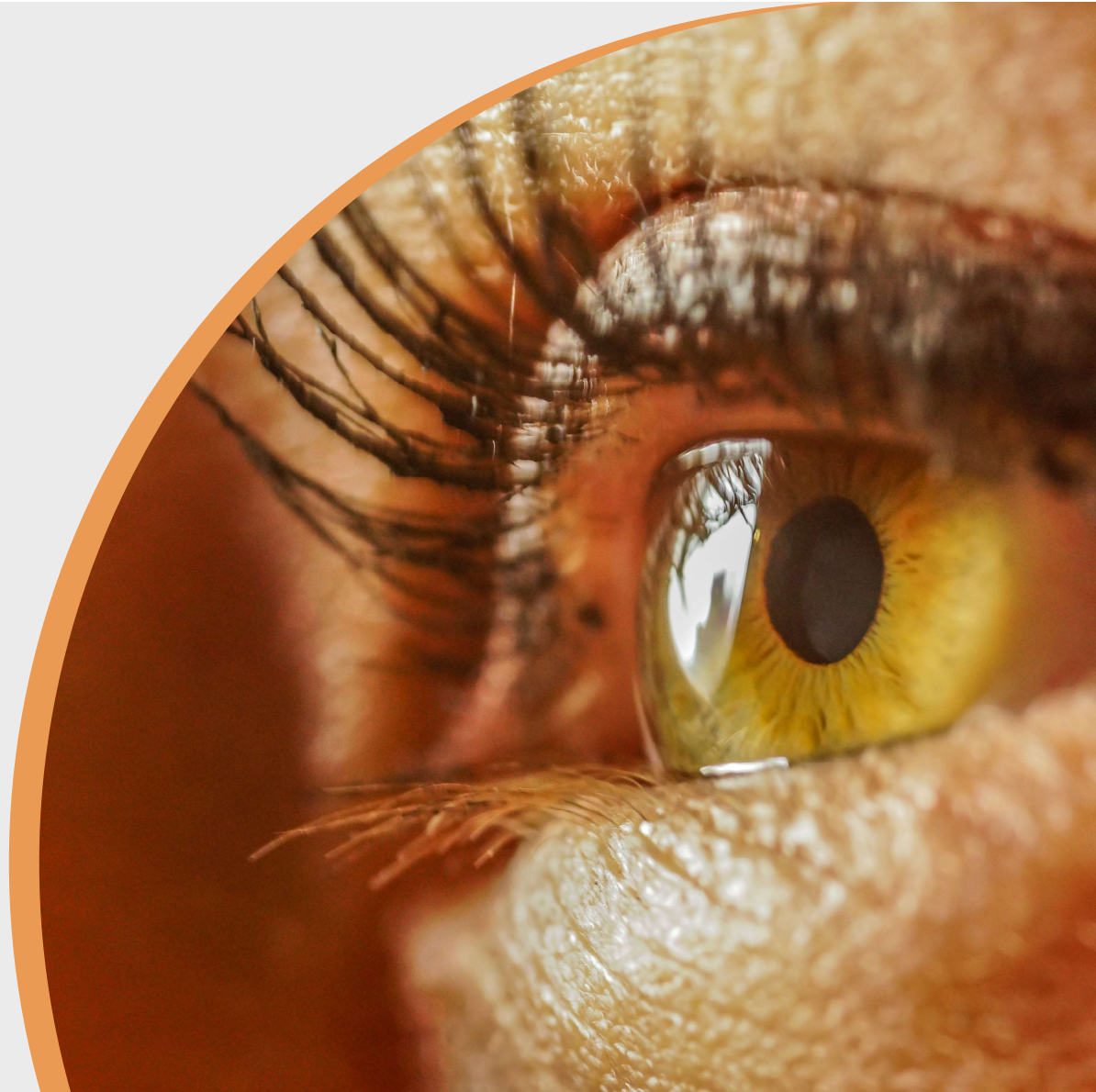
- AZR-MD-001 (Azura)
- OC-01 Nasal Spray (Oyster Point)
- TP-03 (Tarsus)
- Intracanalicular punctal plugs
- Lacripep (synthetic peptide of lacritin)
- Novaliq's CyclASol A
- Topical Spironolactone
- Mucous Secretagogues
  - MIM-D3
  - Rebamipide
- Amniotic drops
- Devices
  - Ocular Iontophoresis

# Bring Tears to Your Eyes

Anti-Inflammatory Agents

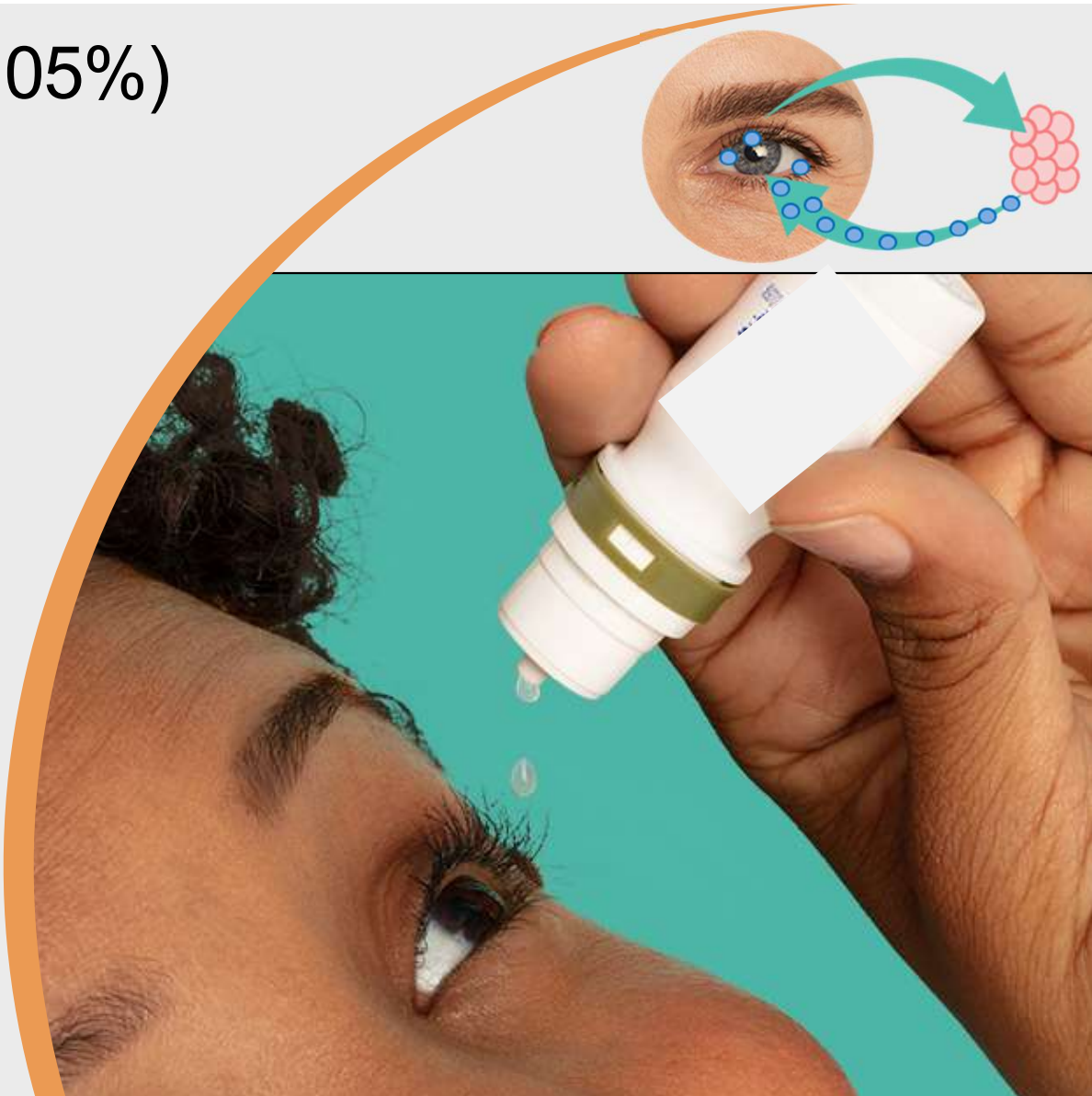
**PRIMARY GOAL:**

Reducing inflammation in  
treatment of mild, moderate  
and advanced DED



# Restasis (Cyclosporine 0.05%)

- Inhibits T-Cell activation
- Clinical trials
  - Increased tear production
  - Reduced corneal staining
  - Increased goblet cell density
  - Reduced reliance on artificial tears
  - Less likely to progress<sup>1</sup>
  - Improved visual acuity (Donnenfeld)<sup>2</sup>



# Cequa (Cyclosporine 0.09%)

- Novel nanomicelle formulation improves delivery of cyclosporine A
  - improved therapeutic penetration and efficacy
  - Well tolerated, mild AE's
  - Significant improvement tear production & ocular surface integrity

FORMULATED WITH  
**NCELL<sup>®</sup> Technology**



# Xiidra (Lifitegrast)

Small-molecule Integrin Antagonist

## Indication

- Approved to treat both signs & symptoms of DED
- Results seen as early as 2 weeks<sup>1</sup>
- Might be used together with Cyclosporine for greater effectiveness



# Xiidra (Lifitegrast)

LFA-1 and ICAM-1 binding is central to the immunological response

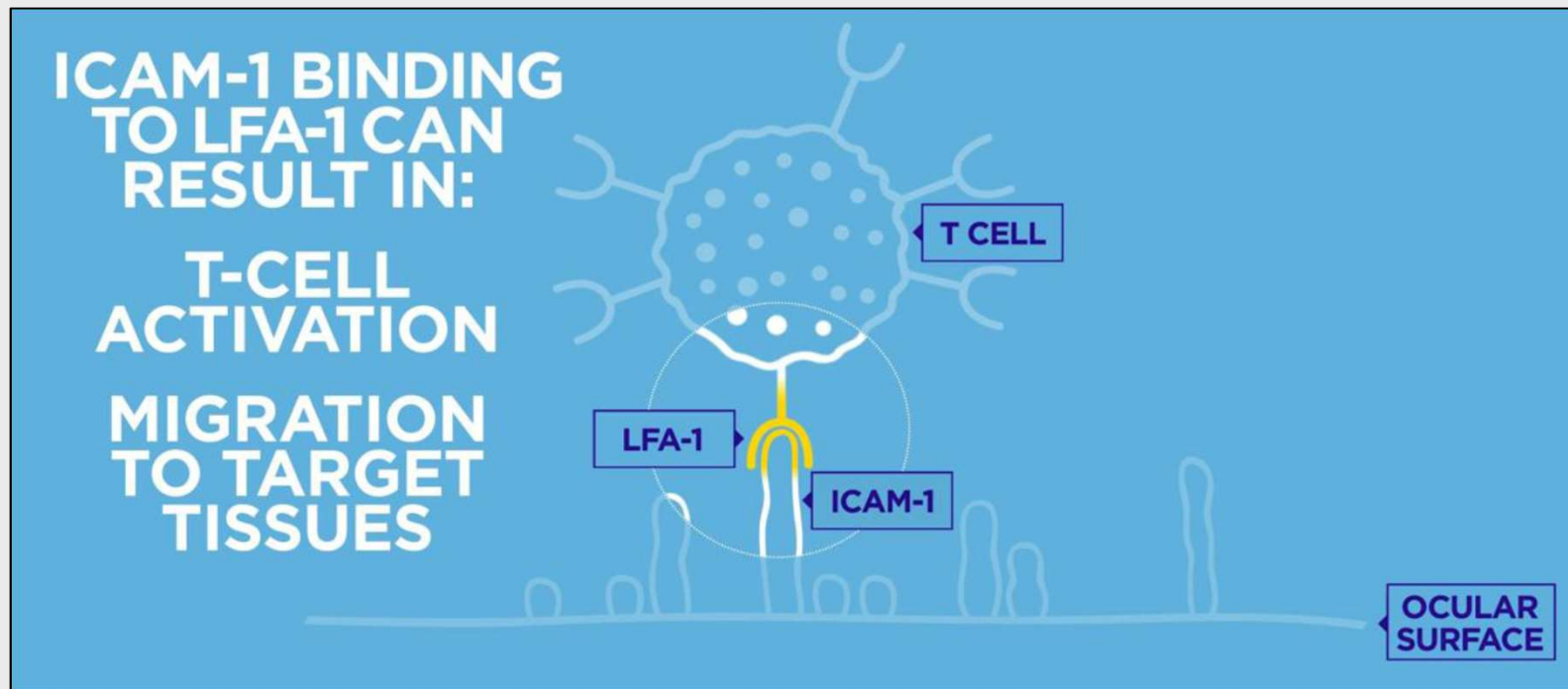


Image courtesy Shire

# Xiidra (Lifitegrast)

LFA-1 and ICAM-1 binding is central to the immunological response

## Indication

- By Blocking ICAM-1/LFA-1 interaction, lifitegrast may prevent
  - T Cell activation
  - Migration
  - Cytokine release

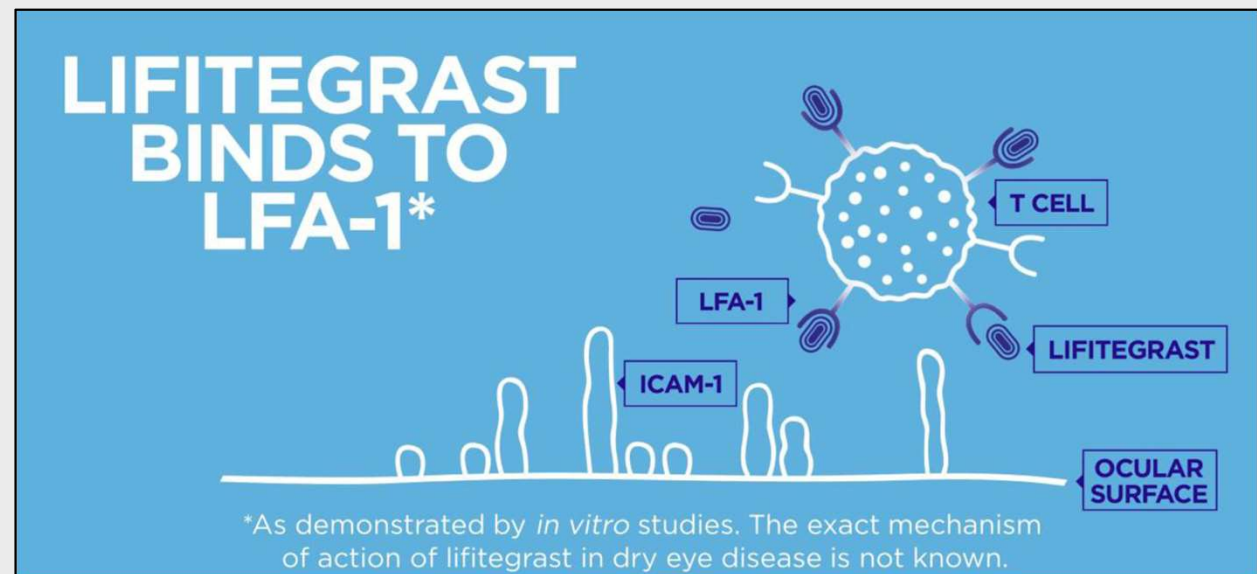
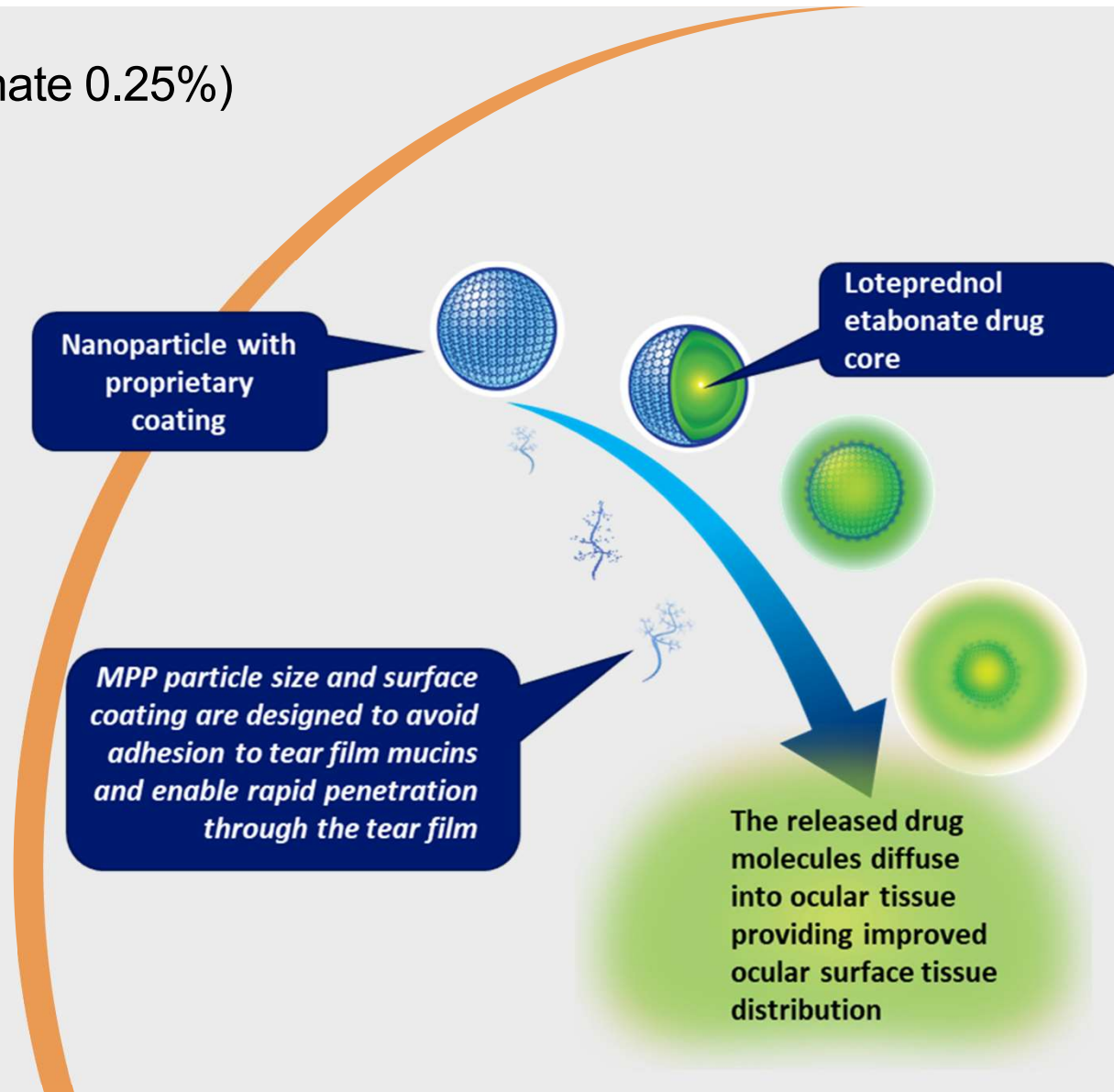


Image courtesy Shire

# EYSUVIS (Loteprednol etabonate 0.25%)

## Newest Option

- Nano-suspension of Loteprednol etabonate (LE)
  - Ester steroid designed to avoid steroid related side effects
  - Formulated with proprietary (MPP) vehicle
  - Nanotechnology allows rapid penetration through ocular tissues
- Temporary relief of signs and symptoms of dry eye disease



# OXERVATE™

(cenegermin)

- Recombinant human nerve growth factor FDA approved August 2018
- First drug approved for the treatment of Neurotrophic keratitis
- Treatment one 8-week cycle
- Developed by Dompé pharmaceuticals,



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®



## Phase II Randomized, Double-Masked, Vehicle-Controlled Trial of Recombinant Human Nerve Growth Factor for Neurotrophic Keratitis

Stefano Bonini, MD,<sup>1</sup> Alessandro Lambiase, MD, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Paolo Rama, MD,<sup>3</sup> Francesco Sinigaglia, MD,<sup>4</sup> Marcello Allegretti, PhD,<sup>4</sup> Wendy Chao, PhD,<sup>4</sup> Flavio Mantelli, MD, PhD,<sup>4</sup> for the REPARO Study Group\*

**Purpose:** To evaluate the safety and efficacy of topical recombinant human nerve growth factor (rhNGF) for treating moderate-to-severe neurotrophic keratitis (NK), a rare degenerative corneal disease resulting from impaired corneal innervation.

**Design:** Phase II multicenter, randomized, double-masked, vehicle-controlled trial.

**Participants:** Patients with stage 2 (moderate) or stage 3 (severe) NK in 1 eye.

**Methods:** The REPARO phase II study assessed safety and efficacy in 156 patients randomized 1:1:1 to rhNGF 10 µg/ml, 20 µg/ml, or vehicle. Treatment was administered 6 drops per day for 8 weeks. Patients then entered a 48- or 56-week follow-up period. Safety was assessed in all patients who received study treatment, whereas efficacy was by intention to treat.

**Main Outcome Measures:** Corneal healing (defined as <0.5-mm maximum diameter of fluorescein staining in the lesion area) was assessed by masked central readers at week 4 (primary efficacy end point) and week 8 (key secondary end point) of controlled treatment. Corneal healing was reassessed post hoc by

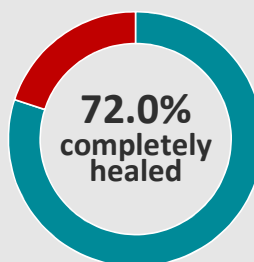
# Oxervate

**Up to 72% of patients achieved complete corneal healing;  
80% of healed patients were recurrence free after 1 year\***

**After 8 weeks of treatment,  
6 times daily**



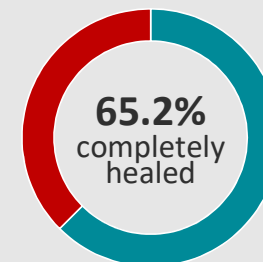
Study NGF0212  
(REPARO)  
(N=52 per group)  
European patients  
with NK in one eye  
NCT01756456



Vehicle response rate 33.3%

In the majority of patients across two clinical studies OXERVATE™ (cenegermin ophthalmic solution 0.002%) was well tolerated and more effective than vehicle in promoting complete corneal healing of moderate or severe NK.

Study NGF0214  
(N=24 per group)  
U.S patients with NK  
in one or both eyes  
NCT02227147



Vehicle response rate 16.7%

Of patients who healed after one  
8-week course of treatment...

**80%**

Remained healed for one year\*

\*Based on REPARO, the study with longer follow-up

Image courtesy Shire

# American diet appears to be a major contributor to MGD

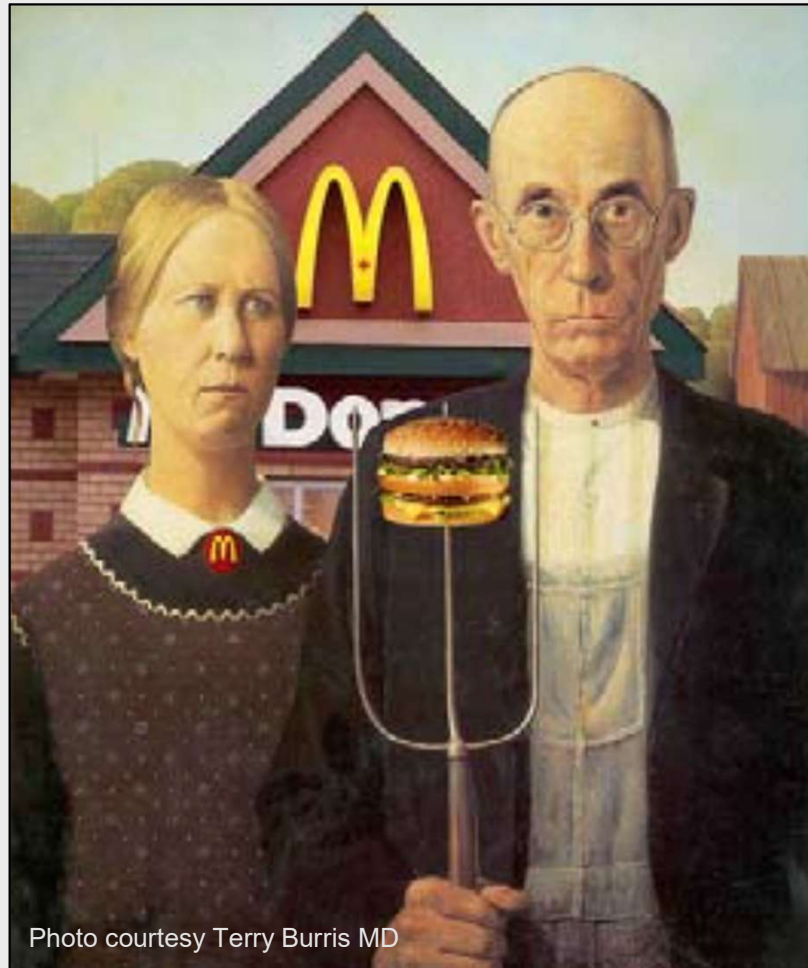


Photo courtesy Terry Burris MD

# The Solution? “Let food be thy Medicine”

Hippocrates

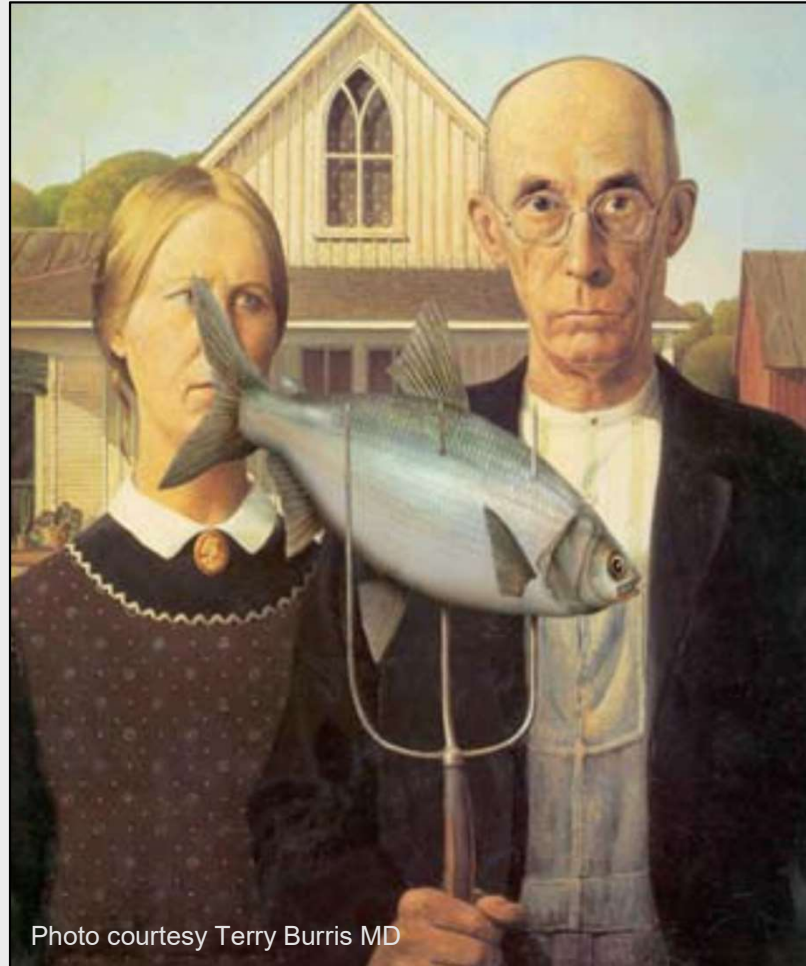


Photo courtesy Terry Burris MD

# Treatment of Ocular Surface

## Neutraceuticals – Omega 3

- Decrease inflammation; increase quality of tear film<sup>1</sup>
- Reduction of dry eye symptoms<sup>1</sup>
- Faster epithelial healing & visual recovery with PRK<sup>2</sup>
- Regeneration of corneal nerves<sup>3</sup>

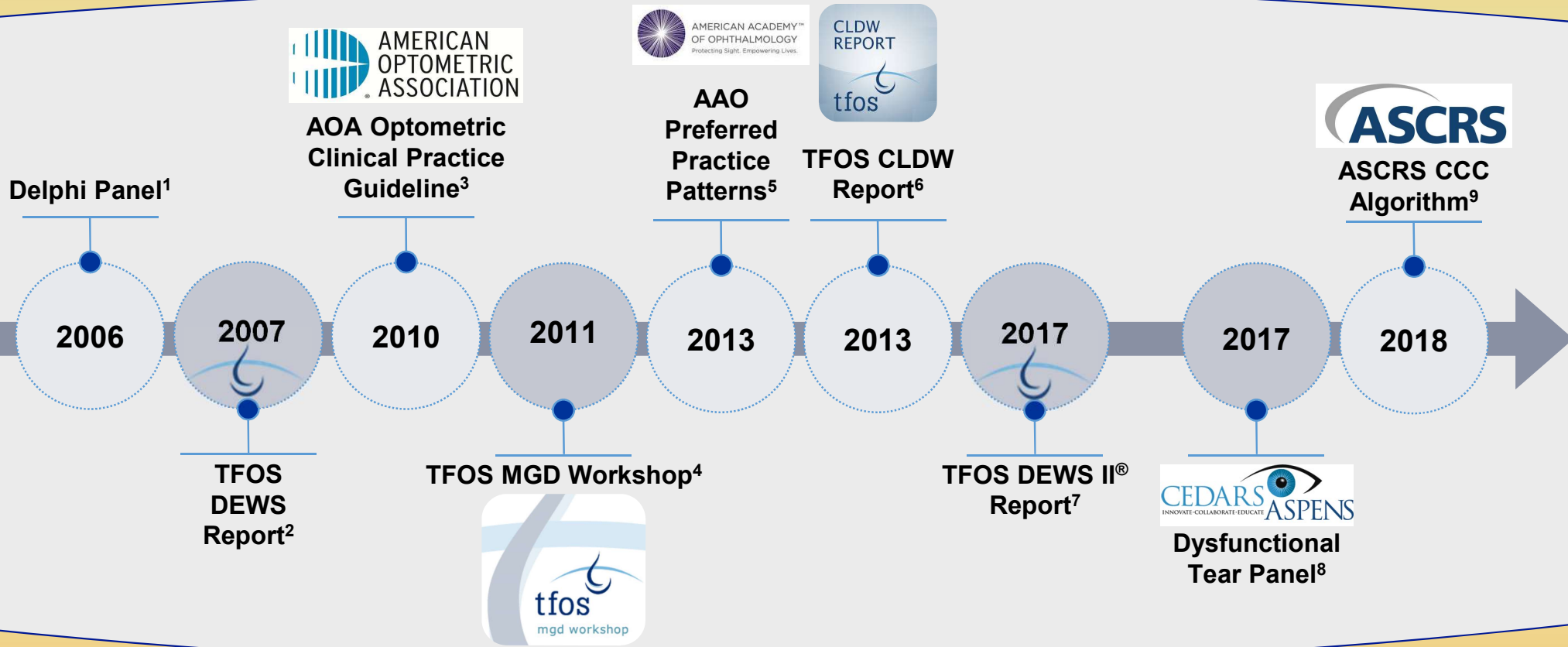
1. Epitropoulos, Alice T, Donnenfeld, Eric D., et al., Effect of Oral Re-esterified Omega-3 Nutritional Supplementation on Dry Eyes. Cornea 2016 Sep; 35(9): 1185-1196

2. Ong NH, Epithelial healing and visual outcomes of patients using omega-3 oral nutritional supplements before and after photorefractive keratectomy: a pilot study Cornea.2013 Jun;32

3. He J,Bazan HE.Omega-3 fatty acids in dry eye and corneal nerve regeneration after refractive surgery. Prostaglandins Leukot Essent Fatty Acids.2010;82(4-6):319-325.



# Experts Have Weighed In On Frameworks For Approaching DED



1. Behrens A et al. Cornea. 2006;25(8):900-7.

2. Research Subcommittee of the International Dry Eye WorkShop. Ocul Surf. 2007;5(2):179-93.

3. Optometric Clinical Practice Guideline. 2010.

4. Nichols KK. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2011 Mar; 52(4): 1922–1929.

5. American Academy of Ophthalmology Cornea/External Disease Panel. San Francisco, CA: American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2013.

6. Nichols JJ et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2013;18;54(11):1-6.

7. Nelson JD et al. Ocul Surf. 2017;15(3):269-275.

8. Milner MS et al. Curr Opin Ophthalmol. 2017;27 Suppl 1:3-47.

9. Kim T. ASCRS Annual Meeting; April 13-17, 2018; Washington, DC.



## NIH Public Access

### Author Manuscript

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## The relationship between dietary n-3 and n-6 fatty acids and clinically diagnosed dry eye syndrome in women<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Biljana Miljanović, Komal A. Trivedi, M. Reza Dana, Jeffery P. Gilbard, Julie E. Buring, and Debra A. Schaumberg

### Abstract

**Background:** Dry eye syndrome (DES) is a prevalent ocular condition, but information on risk or protective factors is lacking.

**Objective:** We aimed to determine the association between dietary intake of n-3 and n-6 fatty acids and their ratio and the presence of DES.

**Design:** Of the 39,876 female health professionals in the Women's Health Study (WHS), we studied cross-sectionally 32,470 women aged 45 to 84 years who provided information on diet and DES. We assessed intake of fatty acids by a validated food frequency questionnaire, and DES using self-reports of clinically diagnosed cases. Of the sample, 1546 (4.7%) subjects reported a clinical diagnosis of DES. We used logistic regression models to estimate the odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) to describe the relationships of fatty acid intake with DES. We analyzed the association between consumption of fish and DES in a similar way. **Results:** After adjusting for demographic factors, hormone therapy, and total fat intake, the OR (CI) for the highest versus lowest fifth of n-3 fatty acids was 0.83 (0.70-0.98), P[trend]=0.05. A higher ratio of n-6/n-3 fatty acid consumption was associated with significantly increased risk of DES, OR (CI)=2.51 (1.13-5.58) for >15/1 versus <4/1 (P[trend]=0.01). In addition, tuna consumption was inversely associated with DES (OR=0.81, CI=0.66-0.99 for 2-4 113 g (4 oz) servings/week, and OR=0.32, CI=0.13-0.79 for 5-6 servings/week versus ≤1 servings/week; P[trend]=0.005).

**Conclusion:** These results suggest that a higher dietary intake of n-3 fatty acids is associated with a decreased presence of DES in women. These findings are consistent with anecdotal clinical observations and postulated biological mechanisms.

observations and postulated biological mechanisms

associated with significantly increased risk of DES in women. These findings are consistent with anecdotal clinical

OPEN

## Effect of Oral Re-esterified Omega-3 Nutritional Supplementation on Dry Eyes

Alice T. Epitropoulos, MD,\* Eric D. Donnenfeld, MD,† Zubin A. Shah, MPH,‡ Edward J. Holland, MD,§  
Michael Gross, MD,‡ William J. Faulkner, MD,§ Cynthia Matossian, MD,¶ Stephen S. Lane, MD,||  
Melissa Toyos, MD,\*\* Frank A. Bucci, Jr, MD,†† and Henry D. Perry, MD†

**Purpose:** To assess the effect of oral re-esterified omega-3 fatty acids on tear osmolarity, matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9), tear break-up time (TBUT), Ocular Surface Disease Index (OSDI), fluorescein corneal staining, Schirmer score, meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) stage and omega-3 index in subjects with dry eyes and confirmed MGD.

**Methods:** This was a multicenter, prospective, interventional, placebo-controlled, double-masked study. Subjects were randomized to receive 4 softgels containing a total of 1680 mg of eicosapentaenoic acid/560 mg of docosahexaenoic acid or a control of 3136 mg of linoleic acid, daily for 12 weeks. Subjects were measured at baseline, week 6, and week 12 for tear osmolarity, TBUT, OSDI, fluorescein corneal staining, and Schirmer test with anesthesia. MMP-9 testing and omega-3 index were done at baseline and at 12 weeks.

**Results:** One hundred five subjects completed the study. They were randomized to omega-3 (n = 54) and control group (n = 51). Statistically significant reduction in tear osmolarity was observed in

group experienced a significant reduction in MMP-9 positivity versus control group (67.9% vs. 35.0%,  $P = 0.024$ ) and OSDI scores decreased significantly in omega-3 ( $-17.0 \pm 2.6$ ) versus control group ( $-5.0 \pm 2.7$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ).

**Conclusions:** Oral consumption of re-esterified omega-3 fatty acids is associated with statistically significant improvement in tear osmolarity, omega-3 index levels, TBUT, MMP-9, and OSDI symptom scores.

**Key Words:** dry eyes, omega-3 fatty acid, tear osmolarity, re-esterified omega-3, meibomian gland dysfunction

(*Cornea* 2016;0:1–7)

**D**ry eye disease (DED) is a common, yet complex, multifactorial progressive condition that can lead to visual loss, damage to the ocular surface, discomfort, and overall reduction in quality of life.<sup>1,2</sup> Meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) results in inadequate and dysfunctional lipid production, which leads to evaporative DED.<sup>3</sup> MGD has also recently been shown to be a sign of hypercholesterolemia, which leads to cardiovascular DED.<sup>4</sup> MGD

# Study Design & Subject Selection

Neutraceuticals – Omega 3

Multi-center, Prospective,  
Interventional, randomized, Double-  
Masked, placebo-controlled

105 subjects completed the study  
randomized

- 54 in treatment group received 2 gms reesterified omega 3
- 51 in placebo group

# Conclusion PRN Results

## **Primary:**

Met both sign & symptom endpoints prospectively

Significant improvement

- OSDI symptom scores (greater than 50% decrease)
- Tear osmolarity (19 mOsm/L decrease)
- MMP9 positivity
- Omega 3 index levels
- TBUT

## Long-term Supplementation With n-6 and n-3 PUFAs Improves Moderate-to-Severe Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca: A Randomized Double-Blind Clinical Trial

John D. Sheppard, Jr,\*†‡ Ruhi Singh,§ Andrew J. McClellan,|| Mitchell P. Weikert,|| Stephen V. Scoper,\*‡ Thomas J. Joly,\*‡ Walter O. Whitley,‡ Ekta Kakkar,¶ and Stephen C. Pflugfelder§||¶

**Purpose:** Supplementation with gamma-linolenic acid (GLA) and omega-3 (n-3) polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) has been found to decrease the production of disease-relevant inflammatory mediators that are implicated in the pathogenesis of chronic dry eye. This study evaluated the effect of a supplement containing both GLA and n-3 PUFAs on signs and symptoms of moderate-to-severe keratoconjunctivitis sicca in postmenopausal patients.

**Methods:** This multicenter, double-masked placebo-controlled clinical trial enrolled 38 patients (both eyes) with tear dysfunction who were randomized to supplemental GLA + n-3 PUFAs or placebo for 6 months. Disease parameters, including Ocular Surface Disease Index, Schirmer test, tear breakup time, conjunctival fluo-

subjects ( $0.37 \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 15$ ) than placebo ( $0.51 \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 16$ ) at 24 weeks ( $P = 0.005$ ). Placebo treatment also significantly increased HLA-DR intensity by  $36\% \pm 9\%$  and CD11c by  $34\% \pm 7\%$  when compared with supplement treatment ( $n = 19$  per group,  $P = 0.001$ , 24 weeks). Neither treatment had any effect on tear production, tear breakup time, or corneal or conjunctival staining.

**Conclusions:** Supplemental GLA and n-3 PUFAs for 6 months improved ocular irritation symptoms, maintained corneal surface smoothness, and inhibited conjunctival dendritic cell maturation in patients with postmenopausal keratoconjunctivitis sicca. **Clinical Trial Registration**—URL: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. Unique identifier: NCT00883649.

Disease Index, Schirmer test, tear breakup time, conjunctival fluo-

URL: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. Unique identifier: NCT00883649.

# DREAM Study



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## n-3 Fatty Acid Supplementation for the Treatment of Dry Eye Disease

The Dry Eye Assessment and Management Study Research Group\*

Press Release

# DREAM Study

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**NIH** National Institutes of Health  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

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## NEWS RELEASES

Friday, April 13, 2018

### **Omega-3s from fish oil supplements no better than placebo for dry eye**

*NIH-funded study finds omega-3 fails to yield beneficial results in the clinic.*

*in the clinic:  
NIH-funded study finds omega-3 fails to yield beneficial results*



# DREAM Objective

To evaluate the safety and effectiveness of omega 3 supplementation in relieving the symptoms of moderate to severe DED

- 535 subjects
  - 3 grams omega-3
- vs
- 5 grams olive oil placebo

# DREAM Study Flaws

## **Major flaws in the design/conclusion of the DREAM Study**

1. Uncontrolled study
2. Selection Criteria
3. Olive oil Placebo
4. Omega-3's DID work

# Uncontrolled Study - “Real World”?

## **Subjects allowed to use wide variety of other therapies**

- Artificial tears & gels (79.4%)
- Cyclosporine drops (38%)
- Warm soaks (22.9%)
- Lid scrubs or baby shampoo (16%)
- **Omega-3 Up to 1200 mg per day**
- Systemic meds that cause dryness
- Systemic steroids
- Other immune suppressive agents

# Uncontrolled Study - “Real World”?

## Subjects not controlled for changes in treatment regimen

Tx compared to Baseline	Omega 3	Placebo
Stopped $\geq 1$ treatment	53%	57%
No change	25%	22%
Changed $\geq 1$ Treatments	12%	13%
Added Treatments	10%	8%
<b>% Subjects changed treatments</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>78%</b>

# DREAM Deficiencies

## Selection Criteria

### *DEWS I*

*“Dry eye is a multifactorial disease of the tears and ocular surface that results in symptoms of discomfort, visual disturbance, and tear film instability with potential damage to the ocular surface. It is accompanied by **increased osmolarity of the tear film** and inflammation of the ocular surface”*

# DREAM Deficiencies

## Selection Criteria

**Only 6%** of patients met a more focused traditional definition of dry eye disease

- **osmolarity** of at least 312m Osm /mm in at least one eye
- **mild MGD** in **both** eyes

## Olive Oil Placebo was NOT neutral

3 grams of omega-3


(vs.)

5 grams of olive oil (1 tsp)



**Oil VS Oil**

# Placebo – Olive oil

**placebo** /plə 'si:bʊ/  *noun*

Save



*plural* **placebos**

## Learner's definition of PLACEBO

[count] *medical*

: a pill or substance that is given to a patient like a drug but that has no physical effect on the patient

# DREAM Deficiencies

**Conclusion: Omega 3's  
Didn't Work!**

“...Omega-3 fails to yield  
beneficial results”



# DREAM Deficiencies

**Conclusion: Omega 3's DID Work!**

- RESULTS of the DREAM TRIAL
- Significant improvement in dry eye signs and symptoms in both groups

Omega-3 Group

61%

Decrease  
In OSDI

Placebo Group

54%

Decrease  
In OSDI

NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT

# Meta Analysis – Cornea 2019

## Purpose:

To Assess whether omega-3 fatty acid (FA) supplementation is more efficacious than placebo in amelioration of signs and symptoms of dry eye disease.

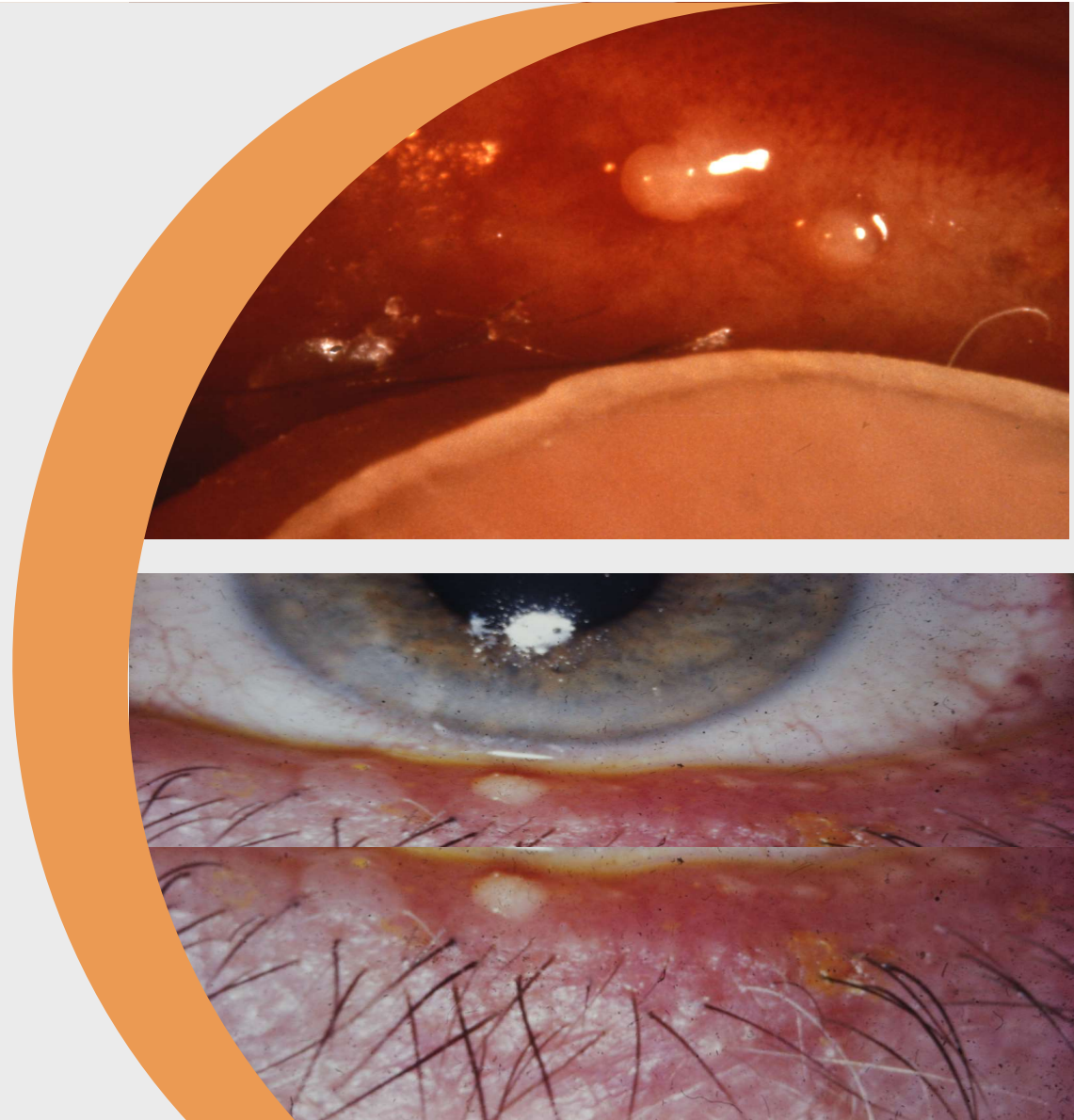
## Conclusion:

This meta-analysis provides evidence that omega-3 FA supplementation significantly improves dry eye symptoms and signs in patients with dry eye disease. Therefore, our findings indicate that omega-3 GA supplementation may be an effective treatment for dry eye disease.



# Think MGD 1<sup>st</sup>!!

- 86% of dry eye patients have an MGD component<sup>1</sup>
- Pure aqueous deficiency is uncommon
- MGD is progressive
- All dry eye should be considered to have a significant MGD component until otherwise proven



# MGD is taking some Heat!!

## In-office treatment options

### 3 step approach MGD

- Lid margin hygiene
  - Microblepharoexfoliation
- Removal of obstruction
  - Lipiflow thermal pulsation
  - iLux
  - TearCare
  - MiBo Thermaflow
  - Thermal I-Touch
  - Maskin Probing
- Reduction/elimination inflammation
  - Intense pulsed light therapy

Most effective when treated earlier before atrophy/dropout



# Microblepharoexfoliation (MBE)

## Treatment of Lid Disease

- Mechanical debridement removes biofilm
  - Reducing bacteria & demodex that contributes to inflammation and obstruction of MG's
  - Biofilm analogy plaque around teeth & gums

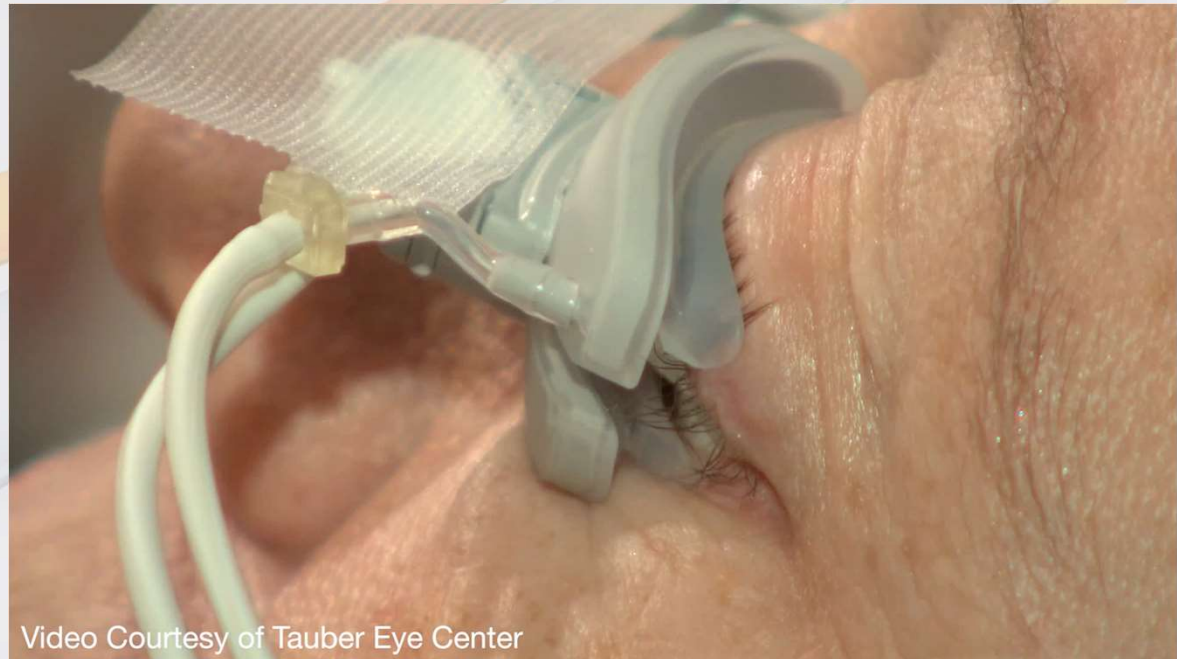


Video Courtesy of Blephex  
James Rynerson, MD

# Lipiflow Thermal Pulsation

## Treatment of Lid Disease

- Combination of heat and Vectored pulsation applied to posterior and anterior eyelid to unclog obstructed MG's
- FDA approved in 2011
- Device applies heat, massaging & unclogging glands
  - Allowing meibum to be secreted into tear film
- 12 minute in-office treatment
- Long term efficacy with single treatment
  - Effectiveness up to 3 years after single tx<sup>1</sup>
- Conventional treatments ineffective - do not address MG obstruction



# iLux

## Treatment of Lid Disease

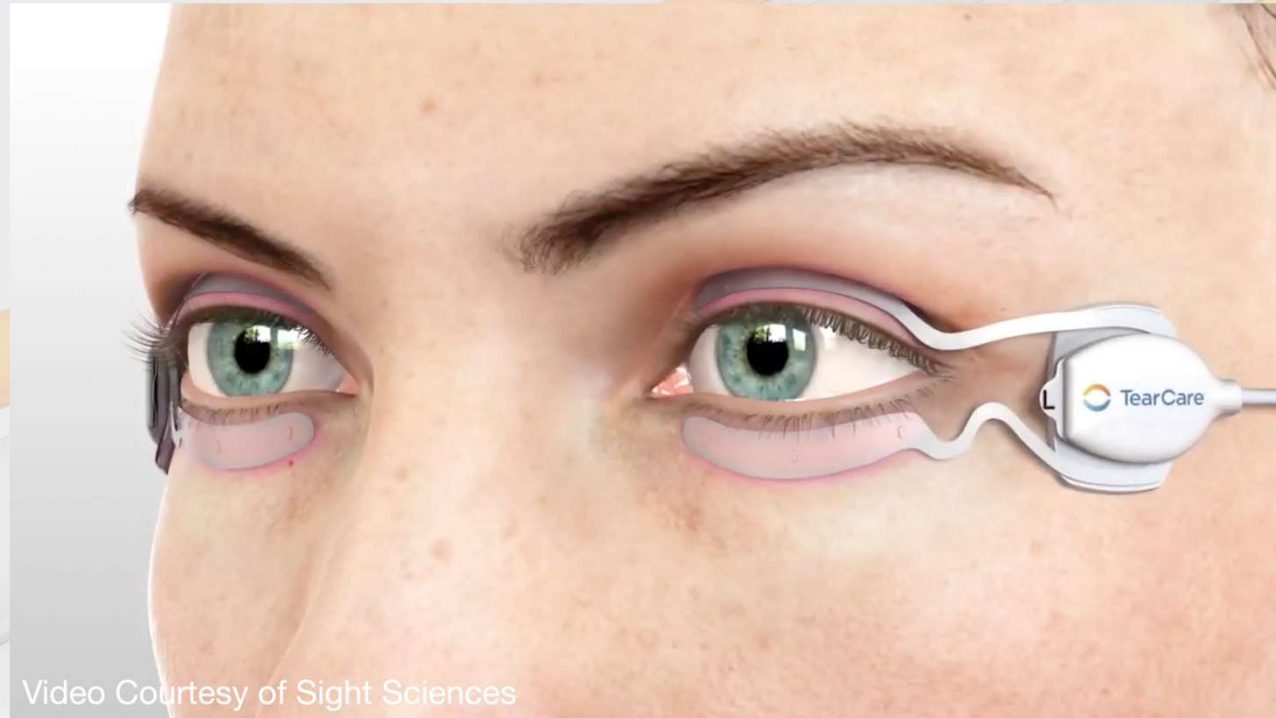
- Handheld thermal device
- Focally applies heat via light source to obstructed glands
- Unique - direct visualization of glands thru magnifier with ability control heat and expression



# TearCare

## Treatment of Lid Disease

- Applies heat to the external lid 15 minutes
- Patients can blink normally
- followed by manual expression
- disposable



# Mibo Thermoflow

## Treatment of Lid Disease

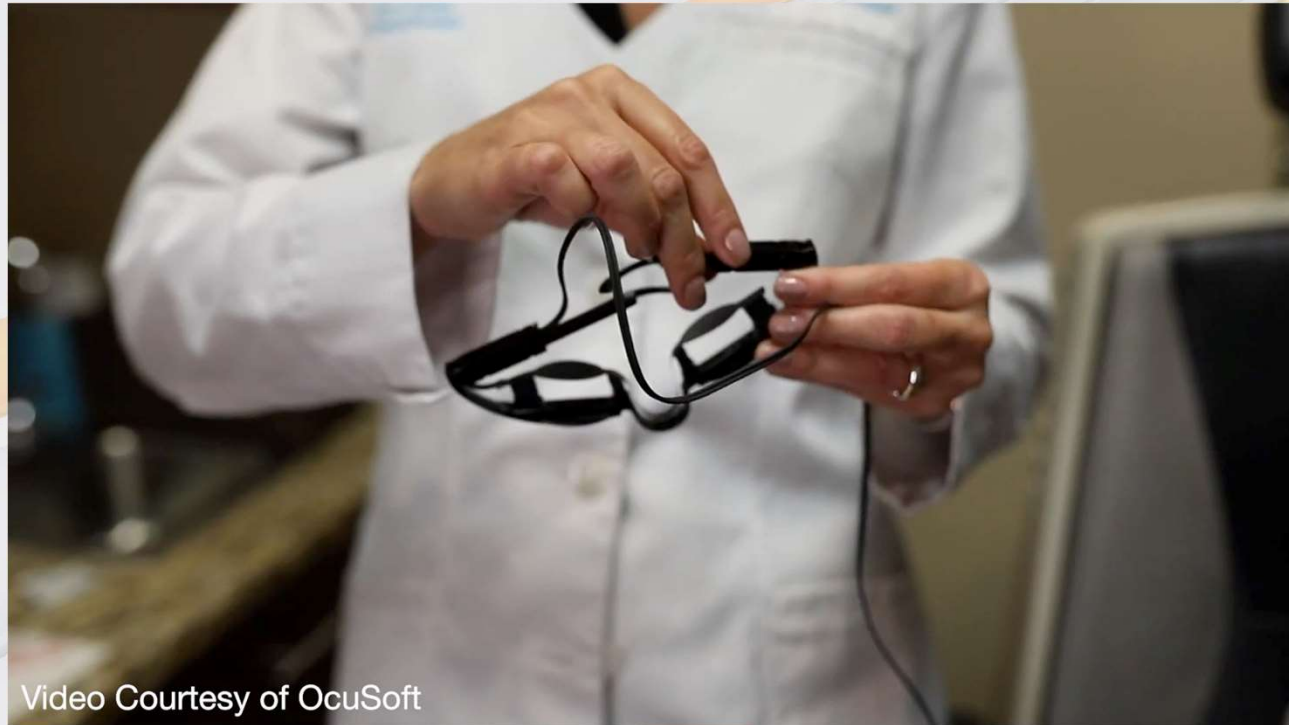
- Delivers heat (108 degrees) tarsal conjunctiva
- Non disposable
- Adjustable treatment settings



# Thermal 1-Touch & EyeXpress

## Treatment of Lid Disease

- Hands-free, goggle system
- Delivers heat to all 4 lids simultaneously
- Non disposable
- Adjustable heat settings



Video Courtesy of OcuSoft

# Manual MG Expression Therapeutic

Treatment of Lid Disease



Video Courtesy of Alice Epitropoulos, MD

# Maskin Probing

## Treatment of Lid Disease

- Relieves obstructed MG's by mechanically dilating glands under local anesthesia<sup>1</sup>
- Sometimes uncomfortable for patients
- Maskin probe (microcannula)
- Relieving obstruction improves flow of meibum



# IPL Treatment

## Intense Pulsed Light

- Non laser light source
- Originally developed for dermatology
- Adopted for use rosacea and MGD<sup>1</sup>
- Uses certain wavelengths of light – targets abnormal blood vessels
  - Reducing inflammation
- Reduces bacterial load and demodex<sup>2</sup>



1. Toyos R, et al. *Photobiomodul Photomed Laser Surg.* 2019;doi:10.1089/photob.2018.4599.

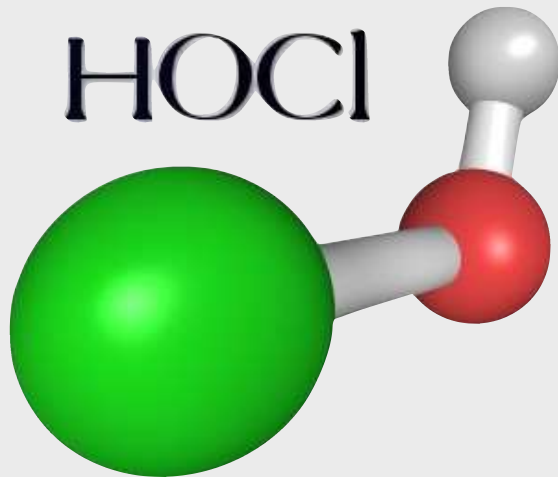
2. Suwal A, Hao JL, Zhou DD, Liu XF, Suwal R, Lu CW. Use of Intense Pulsed Light to Mitigate Meibomian Gland Dysfunction for Dry Eye Disease. *Int J Med Sci.* 2020;17(10):1385-1392. Published 2020 Jun 1. doi:10.7150/ijms.44288

# Lid Hygiene

Hypochlorous Acid or Tea Tree Oil

## Uses

- Blepharitis
- Dry Eye (MGD)
- Preoperative hygiene
- Before/After contact lens wear
- Demodex



# Punctal Occlusion

## Treatment of Lid Disease

### Specifics

- Re-Establish health tear film first
- Wait until MMP-9 is negative



# Dry Eye Pipeline

The Next Generation of Therapies



"Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, near Fairbanks" by "amerune"  
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# Pipeline for MGD

## The Next Generation of Therapies

- AZR-MD-001 (Azura Ophthalmics)
  - promotes breakdown disulfide bonds slow production of keratin & stimulate Meibum production
- NOV03 - 100% perfluorohexyloctane (Novaliq/B&L)
  - Water-free, preservative-free formulation based on EyeSol technology for EDE/MGD
  - Drops are only 10 microns in diameter
- OC-01 nasal spray - (Oyster Point Pharma)
  - selective nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonist stimulates trigeminal nerve in nasal cavity to improve natural tear production including lipids and mucins
- Diquafosol (DQS)
  - P2Y2 receptor agonist

# Pipeline for MGD

## The Next Generation of Therapies

- TP-03 (Tarsus) Demodex
- Phase 2a/2b MARS study
  - Well tolerated
  - Efficacy treating Demodex
  - Persisting effect 90 days



Video Courtesy of  
Terrence O'Brien, MD

# Intracanalicular Punctal Plug

(low dose dexamethasone)

## Specifics

- FDA approved to treatment ocular inflammation & pain after ocular surgery
- Delivery system via punctal plug
- Sustained release to the ocular surface for up to 30 days

## Potential Uses

- Allergic conjunctivitis
- Dry eye

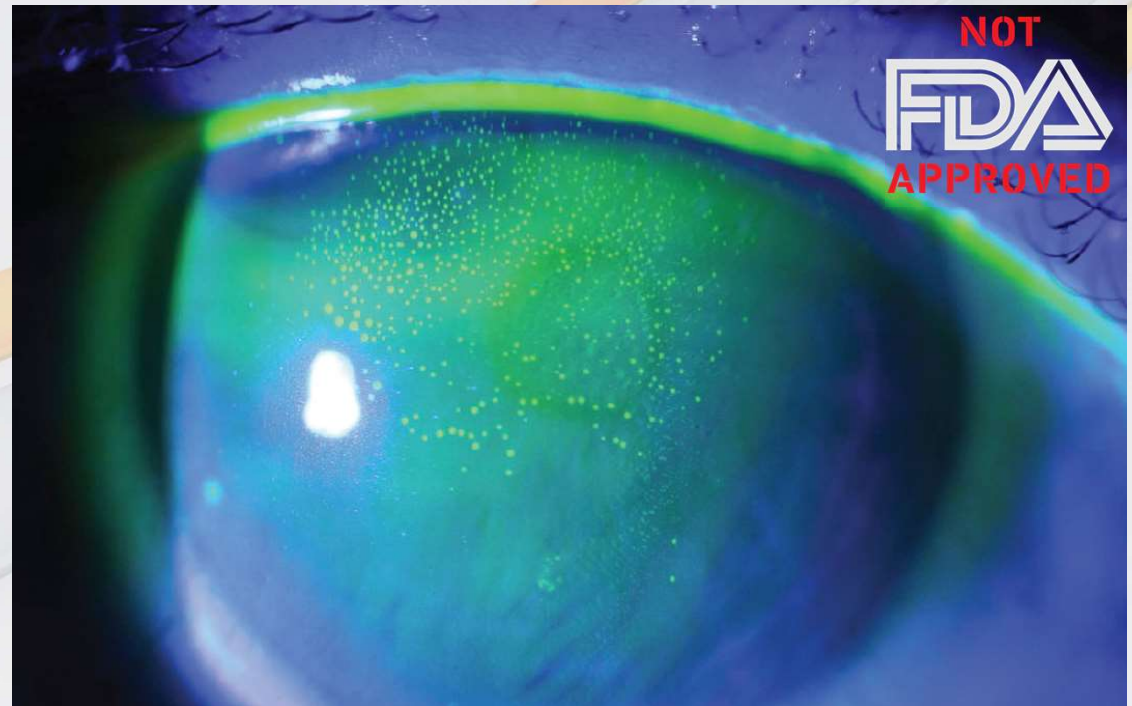


**NOT**  
FDA  
**APPROVED**

# Lacripep

synthetic peptide of lacritin

- Fragment of Lacritin protein
- Thought to be reduced in DED & Sjogren's
- Clinical expectations: promote basal tearing & restore normal fluorescein staining
- Phase II clinical trials in patients with Sjogren's



# Summary

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- High prevalence of MGD resulting in chronic DED
- Early identification and treatment is key
- Educate patients on importance of treating
- Incorporating advanced office-based treatments greater chance successfully managing this chronic disease and improving long term outcomes

