

DRY EYE IS A REAL DISEASE

Dry Eye Disease is a disorder of the tear film caused by tear deficiency or excessive evaporation. It is often associated with menopause, rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes, although it may present in patients with no underlying condition. It is one of the most common reasons patients visit their Eye Care Professional. If untreated, Dry Eye Disease can progress and potentially lead to ocular surface damage. Symptoms include burning, stinging, sensitivity to light, blurred vision and discomfort with daily contact lens wear.

Prevalence of Dry Eye Disease

- 14.6% of patients 65 years and older reported symptoms suggestive of Dry Eye Disease¹
- 3.2 million women 50 and over suffer from Dry Eye Disease²
- 5.7% among women under 50 and 9.8% among women 75 or older²

“Although a number of treatments of varying efficacy exist, there is no known cure for DES, which is one of the leading causes of patient visits to ophthalmologists and optometrists in the United States”
-Schaumberg, et al.²

“Surprisingly, despite these numbers, this condition remains remarkably underdiagnosed”
-Perry & Donnefeld¹

Dry Eye Disease affects the daily lives of patients

- 73% of surveyed patients reported an impact of dry eye symptoms on some aspect of their daily lives³
- 32.3% reported impact on driving at night³
- 27.5% reported impact on reading³
- 17.9% reported impact on watching television³

“Dry eye syndrome has been demonstrated to affect functional visual acuity and impact the ability to work, read, use a computer or bank machine, and drive at night”
-Schaumberg, et al.²

“Dry eye symptoms can be debilitating...In addition, DES leads to increased risk of infection and visual impairment”
- Schaumberg, et al.²

Experts Conclude on Dry Eye Disease

- “Besides the consensual proposal of current treatment recommendations, a significant consequence of the meeting was the recommendation for a change from the term “dry eye”, frequently used to describe the condition, to the term “dysfunctional tear syndrome” (DTS). Panelists unanimously agreed that the label “dry eye” often fails to reflect patients’ symptoms, and does not acknowledge the pathogenic mechanism(s) of the disease”
-McDonnell, et al.⁴

1. Perry HD, Donnefeld ED. Dry eye diagnosis and management in 2004. *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology*. 2004;15:229-304.

2. Schaumberg DA, Sullivan DA, Buring DA, Dana MR. Prevalence of Dry Eye Syndrome Among US Women. *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. 2003;136(2):318-326.

3. Nelson JD, Helms H, Fiscella R, Southwell Y, Hirsch JD. A New Look at Dry Eye Disease and Its Treatment. *Advances in Therapy*. 2000;17(2):84-93.

4. McDonnell PJ, Doyle JJ, Stern L, Behrens A, and the Dysfunctional Tear Syndrome Group. A Modified Delphi Technique to obtain consensus on the treatment of dysfunctional tear syndrome. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2004;45:E-Abstract 3909.

