Patient Experience and Management in HDk Silicone Hydrogel Soft Contact Lenses
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Introduction
High oxygen permeable silicone hydrogel soft contact lenses were first launched in 1998 in Mexico, in 1999 in Europe, Latin America and Asia, and in 2002 in the USA. Clinical benefits with high oxygen permeable silicone hydrogel soft contact lenses have been reported from research centers and clinical practices and the lenses are being fitted in increasing numbers. With this demonstrated clinical benefits of high oxygen permeable lenses, managing patient's expectations and their compliance with wearing schedule remain important issues for acceptance of the continuous wear modality.

Objective
To report patient and practitioner experience through 12 months of a 36 month trial with a high oxygen permeable silicone hydrogel lens (lentrafilcon A, Focus NIGHT & DAY, CIBA Vision Corp., Duluth, GA, USA).

Methods
 Nineteen sites in the US dispensed 317 patients to wear lentrafilcon A lenses in a 36 month prospective, investigator trial. Inclusion/exclusion criteria allowed wide latitude that the patient sample would represent the normal population of patients who wear soft contact lenses. Lens characteristics are reported in Table 1 and the profile of patients at dispensing is summarized in Table 2.

Clinical Management
Lenses
• 30% of eyes were dispensed in 8.6 and 70% in 8.4 base curve. The flat K profile is summarized in Table 3 and Figure 1.

Patient Experience
Satisfaction
• At 1 week 96% and at 12-months 99% of patients were somewhat or very satisfied with the lentrafilcon A lenses.

Problems
• Handling for insertion was reported as a moderate problem by 2% of patients.
• Handling for removal was reported as a moderate problem by 1% of patients.
• No patients reported any severe problems.

Complications
• 31 complications were reported among 25 patients.
• There were no reports of microbial keratitis (MK).

Discussion
The 2 base curve option for lentrafilcon lenses was successfully fitted for a wide range of flat Ks and required few adjustments in lens power through 12 months. Practitioners increased their recommendations for continuous wear as they gained experience with the lens and patients were compliant with their wear schedule recommendations. The overall, lens-related complication rate of 5.4% was well below the range of 35% to 41% that has been reported with 2-week replacement contact lenses (Solomon, 1996; Suchecki, 2000). Patients were highly satisfied with the lenses early in their experience and satisfaction increased as they wore them through 12 months.