Introduction

- Many different contact lens types and wearing modalities exist.
- Analyzing the prescribing habits of contact lens practitioners gives an indication of current trends and may predict future changes within the market.
- Analyzing prescribing habits also indicates the impact that new products have had on patient care.

Purpose

- To evaluate the silicone hydrogel (Si-H) lens fitting preferences of Canadian optometrists, from 2000 to 2006.
- To determine trends in fitting that occur as new lenses are released into the market.

Methods & Materials

- A contact lens fitting survey was distributed annually, in January, to 1000 randomly selected Canadian optometrists.
- Provinces were proportionately represented.
- Practitioners were asked to complete details for the next ten consecutive patients fit with contact lenses.
- Practitioners were asked to return the surveys by the end of March, even if ten patients had not been fit.
- To compensate for the different levels of practitioner activity, a weighting factor was given to all fits for each practitioner.

Results

- Response rate was 14.4% over 7 years (1008 surveys returned).
- Soft lenses were fit to 91.3% of patients.
- 9,340 fits reported, of which 1,582 were for Si-H lenses.

Discussion

- Si-H lens fits increased from 5.4% to 42.9% over 7 years.
- Proportion of Si-H fits for daily wear increased from 33.7% in 2004 to 86.1% in 2006.
- 2004 saw an increase in weekly replacement of Si-H.

Conclusions

- Canadian optometrists fit a large proportion of their patients with Si-H lenses.
- New products have been embraced by the profession.
- Si-H lenses are mainly used for daily wear.

References