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June is National Vision Research Month



NEW DRUGS, and other related stuff ...

Recalled... on May 16, 2006, in response to multiple cases of *Fusarium* keratitis, the FDA released a global recall on ReNu with MoistureLoc[®] contact lens cleaning solution. This recall follows a voluntary market withdrawal of this product by Bausch & Lomb on April 14th. The CDC first disclosed the information warning about the increased rate of eye infections associated with these contact lens cleaning products in April.¹ After the FDA inspected a Bausch & Lomb plant in Greenville, SC, in May, they were still unable to determine the exact cause of the infection. Since the actual connection between these products and the increased frequency of *Fusarium* infections could not be determined, the suspicion is that contamination occurred because of a lack of “good manufacturing practices.” If anyone who has recently used any of these products experiences any signs or symptoms of an eye infection, they are encouraged to see their eye care professional immediately. Bausch & Lomb is currently offering a full refund for ReNu MoistureLoc[®] products as well as a free coupon for ReNu MultiPlus[®] Solution. This refund is available on their website: www.bausch.com. The CDC has issued an update and as of May 18, 130 confirmed cases have been reported, in 26 states and one territory. The typical patient was a 41 year-old female. Also, 31% of cases have required corneal transplants.²

¹CDC. *Fusarium* keratitis – Multiple states, 2006. *MMWR*. 2006 Apr 14;55(14):400-401.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5514a5.htm>

²CDC. *Fusarium* keratitis – United States, 2005-2006. *MMWR*. 2006 May 26;55(20):563-4.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5520a5.htm>

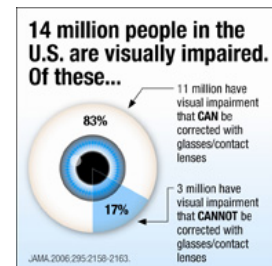
Nevanac[®]... is a new prescription medication that is a topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) approved for ophthalmic use after cataract surgery. Nevanac[®] (nepafenac ophthalmic suspension) 0.1% received FDA approval on Aug. 19, 2005. This agent also has analgesic properties intended to alleviate pain associated with the procedure. It works to inhibit cyclooxygenase and subsequently inhibits prostaglandin production. Nevanac[®] should be used one day prior to surgery and up to 14 days following. Use of this medication longer than recommended could result in an increased risk of corneal damage. Patients should be instructed to instill one drop three times daily. This agent has not been studied in children less than 10 years old. <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm?fuseaction=Search.DrugDetails>

FROM THE MEDICAL LITERATURE ...



How prevalent is visual impairment in the United States?... Between the years 1999-2002, complete visual acuity data were collected from 13,265 participants who came to a mobile examination center (MEC) for distance vision testing, before and after automated refraction. The study found that 1190 of the participants with complete visual acuity data presented with visual impairment (defined as distance visual acuity in the better-seeing eye no better than 20/50). Of these, 83.3% were found to have their vision improved after automated refraction results (defined as improvement in the better-seeing eye to 20/40 or better). Extrapolated to the general US population to estimate that of Americans aged 12 years or older, approximately 14 million are projected to have visual impairment. With refractive correction, more than 11 million could potentially achieve adequate visual acuity to enable them to acquire a driver's license in most states.

Vitale S, Cotch MF, Sperduto RD. Prevalence of visual impairment in the United States. *JAMA*. 2006;295:2158-63.



Is age-related macular degeneration (AMD) less common in certain populations?... According to the Barbados Eye Study (BES), an ongoing research project which began in 1987, people of African descent are less likely to develop late-onset AMD. Though still as likely to develop early-onset AMD, this study provides evidence that black populations have a lower risk of developing late AMD than white populations. The study also demonstrated that a significant correlation existed between diabetes and late AMD. The goal of the BES, which began nine years ago, was to determine the rates of major eye diseases, including AMD, in a predominantly black population. Barbados is an ideal site for this study to achieve its goal because its population is 93 percent black. Data regarding the prevalence of major eye diseases in a mostly black population was non-existent prior to this study.

Leske MC, Wu SY, Hennis A, Nemesure B, Yan L, Hyman L, Schacht AP. Nine-year incidence of age-related macular degeneration in the Barbados eye studies. *Ophthalmology*. 2006; 113: 29-35.

For more information on this study and other vision research, visit: www.nei.nih.gov.

Reviews of Note ...

- Ono SJ, Abelson MB. Allergic conjunctivitis: update on pathophysiology and prospects for future treatment. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2005;115(1):118-22.
- Kourlas H, Schiller DS. Pegaptanib sodium for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration: A review. *Clin Ther*. 2006;28:36-44.
- Abramowicz MA, editor. LASIK and its alternatives: An update. *Med Lett Drugs Ther*. 2004;46(1174):5-7.
- Lee DA, Higginbotham EJ. Glaucoma and its treatment: A review. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2005;62:691-699.
- Wilson SE. Use of lasers for vision correction of nearsightedness and farsightedness. *N Engl J Med*. 2004;351:470-475.

Famous Blind Persons ... While the inability to see can place a person at a sensory disadvantage, many people throughout history have shown that great things can be done in the face of adversity:

Louis Braille – inventor of Braille at age 15

Edgar Degas – French impressionist artist

Helen Keller – American author and philanthropist

Claude Monet – French impressionist artist

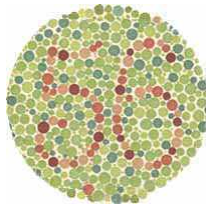
Homer – Greek poet

Stevie Wonder – American musician

John Milton – English poet

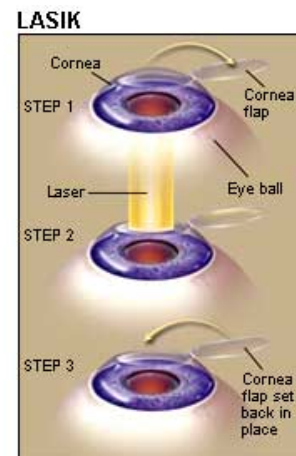
Ray Charles – American musician

FROM THE LAY LITERATURE about medicine ...



Are you color blind? An interesting website designed by Terrace L. Waggoner, O.D., based in Gulf Breeze, FL, presents useful information about colorblindness. He teaches basics about color vision and has helpful tips for teachers and parents of children with vision problems. This site explains a new vision test geared towards pediatric patients that screens for colorblindness, allowing for earlier detection. You can also take a short quiz to see if you may be colorblind. The test is known as the PseudoIsochromatic Plate Ishihara Compatible (PIPIC) Color Vision Test -24 Plate Edition. To check out your vision and learn more about colorblindness go to: <http://colorvisiontesting.com>

What is LASIK eye surgery and is it right for you? To help clear up some of the confusion surrounding LASIK eye procedures the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), along with the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, have assembled an informative website. LASIK stands for Laser-Assisted *In Situ* Keratomileusis. This surgery can permanently alter the shape of the cornea, allowing for significant improvements in vision. The website covers all of the basic questions consumers have when considering this surgical procedure, including: the different types of procedures, the risks of having LASIK surgery, and expectations during and after the surgery. For more information about LASIK eye surgery visit the FDA website at: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/LASIK/default.htm>



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EYE SAFETY TIPS ...

BE PREPARED FOR EYE INJURIES:

- ✓ Always keep a first aid kit on hand that includes an approved eyewash and some type of eye shield.
- ✓ When performing potentially hazardous activities, always wear protective eyewear with polycarbonate lenses. This should be done whether at work, if working on a project at home, or during sports activities.
- ✓ Common causes of eye injuries include power tools, flying objects such as pieces of metal or shards of glass, or chemicals. Any time these or other potential threats to eye safety are recognized, eye protection should be worn.
- ✓ Eye injuries are serious. If you suspect an injury, see a doctor immediately.
- ✓ Of all workplace injuries, 10-20% involve the eye and result in some measure of vision loss, temporary or permanent.
- ✓ Experts believe up to 90% of these injuries could have been lessened or prevented by proper use of eye protection.



For these and more eye safety tips, please visit www.preventblindness.org.



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS: Did you know that thousands of people end up in emergency departments each year around the time of the Fourth of July holiday? Since up to 20 percent of these injuries involve the eye, it is important to be armed with the knowledge needed to keep your celebration safe. Here are several safety tips that should always be followed when near fireworks:

- ✓ Always keep children at a safe distance from fireworks. Bystanders account for half of all fireworks-related injuries.
- ✓ Always keep fireworks pointed in a safe direction.
- ✓ When attending professional fireworks displays, always remain at least 500 feet (1/4 mile) away.
- ✓ Never touch fireworks that have not exploded.
- ✓ Never allow young children to handle any fireworks. For children under five, sparklers account for three-fourths of all fireworks-related injuries.

For more fireworks safety tips, please visit www.aaio.org.

For more information on Vision Care & Research check out these helpful resources:

- Prevent Blindness America[®] sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, has been on the forefront of eye health and safety since the early 1900's. Their mission is to "prevent blindness and preserve sight". To learn more about this organization see their website at www.preventblindness.org.
- Bausch & Lomb has released a new educational program—the Bausch & Lomb Wear & Care Healthy Contact Lens Care Program. Their mission is to help consumers become more involved in caring for their vision needs. There is no cost for enrollment and a free contact care kit is included. To find out more about this offer from Bausch & Lomb visit www.bausch.com
- The U.S. National Institutes of Health seeks to "protect and prolong vision of the American people" through ongoing research to better understand the human eye and develop new ways to promote overall visual health. Public access to this website is available at: www.nei.nih.gov.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Healthy People 2010 objectives for eye safety at work.

CDC. Notice to readers: Healthy Vision Month-May 2006. MMWR. 2006 May 26;55(20):567.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5520a9.htm>

Important Dates in June:

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|--|---|
| • National Cancer Survivor's Day - 4 th | • World Blood Donor Day – 14 th |
| • National World Hunger Day - 6 th | • Father's Day - 18 th |
| • National Headache Awareness Week - 4 th -10 th | • Eye Safety Awareness Week - 27 th - July 5 th |

The last "dose" ...

"Many an object is not seen, though it falls within the range of our visual ray, because it does not come within the range of our intellectual ray."

-Henry David Thoreau [1817-1862]

"What could be worse than being born without sight?"

Being born with sight and no vision."

-Hellen Keller [1880-1968]

An electronic bulletin of drug and health-related news highlights, a service of ...

Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Drug Information Center

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