

Contact Lenses for You – Informed Consent

The initial questioning in the fitting process was to find out how and when you plan to wear contact lenses. This has led to a decision about the wearing and replacement contact lens type chosen from the many options available. The clinical examination prior to the fitting of your contact lenses aimed to confirm your spectacle prescription, the health status of your eyes, the topography (shape) of the eye's front surface, as well as the quantity and quality of the tear layer(s). This was all used to determine the material and brand of contact lens from amongst the type of lenses considered to be the best suited to your eyes. Other factors taken into account were: age, existence of general pathologies, medication or associated treatments, desired level of convenience etc.

Type of contact lenses available

- The two or three most suitable types of contact lenses available should have been discussed as to why they are the best options for you.
- Trial lenses of the chosen lens type (i.e. a specific brand) will have been applied to your eyes and their on-eye performance (vision, comfort, but also and very importantly, how they work with your eyes' anatomy and physiology) will have been verified - this is called 'checking the fit'. If required, changes to these lenses' dimensions were made or a different brand was tried.

Note: The use of soft colored contact lenses, even if they are non-corrective and only used for cosmetic purposes, will fall under the same fitting process and conditions of use.

What you have been told about the wear and care

- You have been instructed in the handling process of the lenses, i.e. the application and removal
- According to the type of contact lens and wearing modality, specific care products have been prescribed and their usage has been explained*.
- The importance of strict adherence to the wearing and replacement schedule (disposability), as well as use of the care regimen to reduce the risk of infection, will have been discussed.
*Does not apply when using daily disposable lenses.

The specification of the contact lenses *and or care products* should never be changed without practitioner advice.

Not all lenses of the same type are the same, nor perform the same on a given eye, even though they may bear the same numbers on the label / box. There is more to a contact lens than these numbers, i.e. the lens material, its surface characteristics, the back and front surface geometry, optical and edge design etc.

Risk of complications

- You understand that complications are rare and mostly minor, often linked to the end of wear experience e.g. dry eye symptoms, reduced comfortable wearing and vision.
- Sometimes major complications, e.g. microbial infection, can, however, lead to scarring or loss of sight and can occur despite keeping to instructions.

You have been told that: *if you have a red eye, eye pain or sensation of a foreign body on the eye, remove the contact lens immediately and consult your eye care practitioner.*

Your eye care practitioner is willing to answer any question that you may have.

The practitioner has also provided you with all the necessary information of your contact lenses in the form of a specification. We ask you to sign this document; a signed copy will be kept in your records.

<p>I..... acknowledge that the choice of contact lenses, as well as all the risks, have been explained to me in terms that I understand; and that all my questions have been answered in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p>I have had a sufficient time to reflect and (please circle the appropriate option):</p> <p>Signature..... Date.....</p>
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