

# TREATING DRY EYE SYNDROME

**Dry eye syndrome is a condition estimated to affect more than 4 million people in the UK.**



The latest figures show there are over 50 dry eye branded products to choose from, with different ingredients in various presentations and formulations. With so much choice, pharmacists have a very important role in understanding the differing symptoms of mild, moderate and severe dry eye, and deciding which treatment would be most appropriate.

## **DRY EYE**

Dry eye syndrome is a multifactorial disease of the tears and ocular surface, which results in a range of symptoms, including discomfort, visual disturbance, tear film instability and potential damage to the ocular surface. It is accompanied by increased osmolarity of the tear film and inflammation of the ocular surface.

The key features of dry eye syndrome are:

- Decreased tear production;
- Increased tear evaporation;
- Incorrect composition of tears.

These all result in inadequate lubrication of the eyes.

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals has identified dry eye syndrome as a significant area of patient need. It is a condition that increases with age, with the over- 60s most likely to suffer. Symptoms experienced by the patient range from mild cases, which often go untreated, to severe disorders of the lachrymal film which result in chronic eye disease. Some eye drops contain preservatives and can cause irritation. If a patient is sensitive to preservatives or wears contact lenses, consider switching them to a treatment that is preservative-free. Carmellose Sodium, Carbomer, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Hydroxypropyl Guar, Sodium Hyaluronate, Hypromellose and Povidone are all available without preservatives.

## **DRY EYE PRODUCTS FROM MOORFIELDS**

As well as providing a range of unlicensed specials, Moorfields Pharmaceuticals have launched three licensed dry eye products to the market within the last two years. **Hydromoor™**, an ocular lubricant with Hypromellose, was Moorfields first licensed product. Hypromellose is the traditional choice of treatment for mild tear deficiency. It may need to be installed frequently for adequate relief. Hydromoor is very cost effective compared with the leading brand priced at £16.95, 66 per cent more expensive than Hydromoor, priced at £5.75.

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals are also pleased to announce the launch of **Lubristil™** Eye Drops to their range. Lubristil contains Sodium Hyaluronate, which has only been on the market for a couple of years but is considered to be the gold standard in the management of dry eye conditions. Amongst other properties, it has been shown to remain in contact with the ocular surface for a significantly longer period of time than other treatments.

**Moorfields Hydromoor™ and Lubristil™ are preservative free, which means they are less likely to cause additional irritation and can be used by those who are sensitive to preservatives. They both come in convenient single dose units.**



In March this year Moorfields Pharmaceuticals relaunched **Ilube®** Eye Drops containing 5% Acetylcysteine, a unique formulation for the treatment of dry eye syndromes associated with deficient tear secretion, or impaired or abnormal mucus production. Ocular surface mucus is often abnormal in tear deficiency, and the combination of Hypromellose with a mucolytic such as acetylcysteine can be helpful.



**Moorfields is supporting its product range with a unique dry eye resource for pharmacists and other health professionals, [www.dryeyesmedical.com](http://www.dryeyesmedical.com)**

For further information please call +44(0)20 7674 9090 or visit [www.moorfieldspharmaeuticals.co.uk](http://www.moorfieldspharmaeuticals.co.uk)