

ABSTRACT SUBMITTED TO WOC2008: PROF CLIVE PECKAR

“THE USE OF SODIUM HYALURONATE GEL 0.3% IN THE MANAGEMENT OF POST-KERATOPLASTY PATIENTS, CHRONIC REFRACTORY DRY EYE PATIENTS AND OTHER OCULAR SURFACE PROBLEMS”

Purpose:

Topical Sodium Hyaluronate 0.18% has been used in the management of dry eyes and corneal surface problems because of its ability to stabilise the tear film and promote epithelial healing because of its specific muco-adhesive, water retentive, viscoelastic and preservative-free properties.

Moderate to severe dry eye cases often require hourly or half hourly treatment with ocular lubricants and despite this may remain symptomatic. In 2004 a 0.3% non-preserved Sodium Hyaluronate Gel became available for the management of more severe dry eye patients. This paper describes 20 patients who attended with severe dry eyes and were treated 0.3% Sodium Hyaluronate in order to achieve a more stable pre-corneal tear-film with relief of symptoms.

Patients and Methods:

Location: Warrington Hospital and Spire Cheshire Hospital, Warrington UK.

Patients attending between May 2004 and January 2008

Patients with severe kerato-conjunctivitis sicca, who remained symptomatic following puncto-canalicular occlusion with intra-canalicular implants (SmartPlugs™) and regular instillation Sodium Hyaluronate 0.18% drops (Vismed™), were changed to Sodium Hyaluronate 0.3% (Vismed Gel™).

Results:

All twenty patients achieved considerable improvement in ocular comfort using Sodium Hyaluronate 0.3% Gel compared to 0.18% drops. Patients diagnosis's were: severe 'dry eye syndrome' 6 patients; Sjogren's Syndrome 3 patients; post penetrating keratoplasty 2 patients with post surgical corneal flattening and 3 patients with bullous corneal endothelial failure; 2 patients with longstanding herpes simplex keratitis; one patient with rheumatoid corneal melt; 2 patients with longstanding facial palsy and one 15 year old patient with an anterior basement membrane dystrophy. Video sequences of the tear film demonstrate this.

Conclusion:

Sodium Hyaluronate 0.3% (Vismed Gel™) is a valuable addition to our armamentarium for the management of patients with severe dry eyes.