

New dry eye device unveiled

By Lesley Springall

A NEW DRY eye device, which claims to treat evaporative dry eye, meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) and the less common and more difficult to treat aqueous deficient dry eye has arrived in New Zealand. Resonance Eye is a new dry eye device adapted from technology originally developed to speed wound healing, said Jeremy Reibon from Eyetek, the first Australian distributor to bring the relatively new device Down Under on behalf of its Italian-based manufacturer Resono Ophthalmic.

Unlike intense pulsed light (IPL) machines, that were originally developed for the anti-wrinkle world and now dominate MGD treatment, the Resonance Eye is a non-invasive treatment, requiring no external cooling systems, which uses electrodes to stimulate the metabolism and regeneration of cells. Resono calls this operation principle quantum molecular resonance. QMR delivers alternate electric current patterns at frequencies ranging from 4MHz to 64MHz that resonate with biological tissue molecular bindings which reactivates their correct physiological behaviour and restores health, it said.

Unveiling the device for the first time in New Zealand, optometrist Ryan Mahmoud from NVision in Auckland, which specialises in treating dry eye patients, said he was impressed by the literature and how QMR technology had been used successfully in other areas of the body for chronic wound healing.

"I mainly see dry eye patients, so I see differences in severity and what people need. There is a cohort of patients who have mixed MGD and aqueous deficient dry eye, so I see this as a good option."

Neil Human, chief executive of the Independent Optometry Group (IOG), was also present at the unveiling to assess the new technology for his members.

Mahmoud's Resonance Eye is now sited alongside his IPL EYE machine and his LipFlow Thermal Pulsation System, designed to remove meibomian gland blockages. He said he's keen to properly test the Resonance Eye's claims for himself and is currently in talks with Associate Professor Jennifer Craig, head of the Ocular Surface Lab at Auckland University, about running a formal study. Though this is still at the ideas stage at the moment, he stressed.

There are several studies taking place on the Resonance Eye across the world, but only one has been completed to date, led by ophthalmologist Dr Giulio Ferrari from IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, a university and research hospital in Milan. Twenty-five MGD patients were subjected to the recommended four



Mahmoud Ryan Mahmoud tests out his new Resonance Eye with Eyetek's Jeremy Reibon (seated) and IOG's Neil Human.

treatments of 20mins each at one-week intervals, and then re-examined one month after their last treatment. Corneal fluorescein staining improved by 62.5%, tear breakup time increased by 30.5% and the patients' ocular surface disease index scores improved by 37%. Their minimum quality and number of exposable meibomian glands also increased (35.7% and 12%) and Schirmer test scores increased by 16.5%, with no adverse events observed.

As it's still a relatively new technology, the Resonance Eye is currently more expensive than its competitor IPL products, but it doesn't require ongoing consumables, said Reibon. "And it's safe in comparison to IPL, there is no risk of burning or misuse if not used properly."

All this made it very appealing, said Mahmoud. "It's quite a compelling proposition, particularly as it's very non-invasive and easy to use. No device treats 100% of patients, so if one device doesn't work, I've now got the option of using another device to get results for my patients."

NVision dry eye seminar

NVision is holding a CPD event on dry eye diagnosis and management, followed by a dry eye evaluation workshop on Thursday 23 April at 6:30pm at NVision's office in Albany. For more information, please email Ryan Mahmoud at ryan@nvision.co.nz.

Pay for style, not protection

PRICE IS NOT indicative of how well sunglasses protect our eyes from harmful UV light, concluded Dr Andrew Collins in a recent Fair Go episode.

Dr Collins, from the School of Optometry and Vision Science at Auckland University, tested several sunglasses for the TVNZ show, measuring how much visible glare and invisible UV light



Dr Andrew Collins on Fair Go.

the sunglasses lenses allowed through. Ideally, lenses shouldn't let any UV light through at all and they need to have a dark enough tint to protect against glare and provide comfortable vision, he said.

"\$10 sunglasses can work just as well as \$400 ones," said Dr Collins, advising consumers to always look for a New Zealand, Australia or European standard label when buying sunglasses.

Dry eye website launched

DRY EYE DIRECTORY, a website connecting dry eye sufferers to local practitioners, has been launched with practitioners from Australia, New Zealand and the US already registered.

The website is the creation of Leigh Plowman, a therapeutic optometrist practicing in Colac, Victoria, Australia.

"Dry eye causes discomfort for millions of sufferers around the world and data shows that Google searches for 'dry eye' have more than doubled over the last 10 years. With our ever-increasing reliance on mobile and computer screens, that trend, and the number of dry eye sufferers, is likely to continue to rise," said Plowman.

"Suffering from dry eyes for many years, Plowman said it was his own experiences with the condition, coupled with the increasing number of patients coming to him after failing to find a cure with drops, that drove him to create Dry Eye Directory. "Many people attempt to treat dry eye with over the counter drops without success. Instead, Dry Eye Directory is committed to improving the lives of sufferers by connecting them to expert optometrists, ophthalmologists and remedies, including Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) treatment," he said.

The website is free for practitioners and patients to join and use, www.dryeyedirectory.com



MEET THE NEW TEAM



Dr Stephen Best



Dr Stuart Carroll



Dr Shenton Chew



Dr Chi-Ying Chou



Dr Dean Corbett



Dr Archie McGeorge



Dr Justin Mora



Dr Rachael Niederer



Dr Yvonne Ng



Dr Sid Ogura



Dr Sue Ormonde



Dr Taras Papchenko



Dr David Pendergrast



Dr Alison Pereira



Assoc. Prof. Philip Polkinghorne



Dr Sarah Welch

All Auckland Eye Doctors are trained for general ophthalmology, such as cataracts, glaucoma, red eyes and acute eye disease. Here's a list of our Doctors' surgical sub-specialties.

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Dr Stephen Best
Dr Stuart Carroll
Dr Shenton Chew
Dr Chi-Ying Chou
Dr Dean Corbett
Dr Archie McGeorge
Dr Justin Mora
Dr Yvonne Ng
Dr Sid Ogura
Dr Sue Ormonde
Dr Taras Papchenko
Dr David Pendergrast
Dr Alison Pereira
Assoc. Prof. Philip Polkinghorne
Dr Sarah Welch

GLAUCOMA

Dr Stephen Best
Dr Shenton Chew
Dr Chi-Ying Chou
Dr Dean Corbett
Dr Justin Mora

PAEDIATRICS/STRABISMUS

Dr Justin Mora
Dr Stuart Carroll
Dr Yvonne Ng

OCULOPLASTICS/EYELIDS

Dr Taras Papchenko
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MEDICAL RETINA

Dr Archie McGeorge
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Dr Archie McGeorge
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Dr Sarah Welch

CORNEA/ANTERIOR SEGMENT

Dr Chi-Ying Chou
Dr Sue Ormonde
Dr David Pendergrast

LASER/REFRACTIVE

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