

NEW STUDY FINDS HYDROEYE® BENEFICIAL TO LASIK PATIENTS

Patented Dietary Supplement Found to Relieve Dry Eye Symptoms

Carson City, NV – December 16, 2003 – ScienceBased Health®, a leading provider of premium nutraceuticals for eye health, today announced the results of a new study conducted by Frank A Bucci, Jr., MD, noted ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon. The study, presented by Dr. Bucci at the 2003 American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) meeting, found that subjects with dry eyes who took HydroEye, a patented dietary supplement, prior to undergoing the LASIK procedure, experienced increased levels of lactoferrin. Lactoferrin, a protective protein found in tears, is widely accepted as an indicator of ocular surface health. Decreased levels of lactoferrin are indicative of dry eye, which can often lead to complications post-LASIK and lengthen recovery time.

Dr. Bucci evaluated the effects of pre-treatment with HydroEye in 40 patients undergoing bilateral LASIK. Twenty patients with a history of evaporative or aqueous-deficient dry eye were assigned to take the recommended dose of HydroEye for one month before surgery, continuing for a month post-operatively. The remaining 20 patients, age-matched but with no prior history of dry eye, served as untreated controls.

Tear lactoferrin levels were measured at baseline, on the day of the procedure, and at one day and one month after surgery. At the beginning of the study, the treated group had a higher incidence of ocular surface disease and a lower lactoferrin level than the control group (.95 vs. 1.1 ng/ml, respectively).

In the treated patients, mean lactoferrin increased a significant 32% during the pre-treatment period, becoming significantly higher (mean 24%) than the control group by the day of surgery. Lactoferrin levels dropped one day post-op in both groups. However, the post-surgery decrease was less marked in the treated compared to untreated patients (.88 v .77 ng/ml respectively), with lactoferrin levels still 12% higher in those taking HydroEye. Lactoferrin rose in both groups during the month following surgery, with levels remaining slightly above baseline measurements in the treated group.

“Transitory dry eye is a common complication after LASIK, lasting longer in patients with pre-operative dry eye,” said Frank A. Bucci, Jr., MD. “I began recommending oral omega fatty acids for many of my dry eye patients after discovering that HydroEye significantly increases the post-LASIK comfort level in dry eyes patients and helps to expedite recovery time. My research findings shed light on how omega fatty acids work to accomplish this.”

“The anti-inflammatory properties of the fatty acid gamma linolenic acid (GLA) – a prominent component of HydroEye – have long been known,” said Penny Edwards, MPH, CNS, nutrition scientist for ScienceBased Health. “Recent studies report that supplemental GLA helps to dampen inflammation, and increase tear production while reducing dry eye symptoms in post-PRK patients. HydroEye also features a proprietary blend of nutrient co-factors that work in concert with the Black Currant Seed oil, the source of the GLA, to quell dry eye symptoms.”

The study is a follow-up to previous studies Dr. Bucci conducted in 2001 that examined the effect of HydroEye on tear lactoferrin levels. In the first study, administration of HydroEye daily to 13 normal patients was found to increase mean tear lactoferrin levels by 60% at the end of 8 weeks. Additionally, 12 pre-LASIK patients given HydroEye daily 1-4 weeks prior to LASIK, experienced a 40% increase in lactoferrin when measured the day before the procedure.

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