

CONTACT LENSES

As with most aspects of modern life, technological advances in the contact lens field are developing at dizzying pace. One such advance is the introduction of silicone hydrogel contact lenses. These soft contacts allow for much greater oxygen transmission to the eye than previous generations of soft lenses. This benefit translates into greater all-day comfort and decreased redness on the part of the wearer. Several brands of these silicone lenses with varying disposal rates are already available for patients with nearsightedness or farsightedness. Parameters for silicone lenses that correct for astigmatism will be more widely available in the near future.

Daily disposable contact lenses continue to be an attractive option for a number of contact lens wearers, including some patients who require bifocal contacts or astigmatic contacts, and whose prescription falls within the lenses' available parameters. These lenses offer essentially "no care" convenience to those patients who have had problems in the past with solution incompatibilities, allergies, or inflammations while using other contact lens modalities.

There have also been advances in the gas permeable contact lens area. New gas permeable polymers, in addition to surface treatments on polymers, are now widely available and have resulted in lenses which have enhancements in wettability and long-term comfort. Another advancement is the newly approved contact lens known as SynergEyes, which is a hybrid of a gas permeable lens. Its center is surrounded by a soft lens skirt. This lens combines the crisp vision of a gas permeable contact with the comfort of a soft lens and joins the Softperm lens as another option for contact lens success.