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Poster Abstracts
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Initial subjective experiences using commercially available hydrogel and silicone hydrogel multifocal contact lenses

Karen Walsh, Anna Sulley, Jose Vega
Affiliation: CooperVision

Purpose: Superior oxygen transmissibility and potential long-term ocular health gains might motivate eye care professionals (ECPs) to prescribe silicone hydrogel (SiHy) multifocal contact lenses (MFCLs). However, wearer initial response when trying a new lens is also important. This study evaluated initial wearer experience by comparing subjective lens performance ratings obtained using commercially-available hydrogel and SiHy MFCLs.
Method: Habitual soft contact lens wearers participated in a single-visit, double-masked, randomised, crossover study to assess initial subjective responses to omafilcon A (hydrogel, CooperVision Inc.) and somofilcon A (SiHy, CooperVision Inc.) MFCLs, utilising different design systems and materials. Overall lens impression (satisfaction), comfort, handling, distance, intermediate, near and overall vision were rated using Visual Analog Scales (VAS, 0-100) following 15 minutes of lens wear. Overall preference was rated using a 4-point forced-choice Likert scale.
Results: 66 participants with mean age 52.62±9.66 years were fitted with the MFCLs. Overall lens impression (satisfaction) ratings were significantly better for somofilcon A compared to omafilcon A MFCLs (84.5 ± 14.6 vs. 80.0 ± 15.0, p=0.006). Overall preference was also in favour of the somofilcon A lens (69.8% vs. 30.3%, p=0.002). Statistically significant differences ($p<0.05$) were noted between the ratings for ease of application (mean difference 4.92±13.28); comfort (mean difference 5.50±13.38); distance vision (mean difference 6.42±13.70); and overall vision (mean difference 3.79±12.24), all in favour of somofilcon A. No statistically significant differences were found for either near vision, intermediate vision, or ease of removal ($p>0.05$ for all).
Conclusions: The data offer ECPs reassurance that fitting wearers with somofilcon A MFCLs has potential for short- and long-term benefits compared to omafilcon A MFCLs, which may be useful when refitting from one lens to another. Such benefits may be attributable to the lens material, surface characteristics or MFCL optics specific to the somofilcon A MFCLs.

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