

Clinitas™

2 September 2008

New Therapeutic Option for Dry Eye Symptoms Available on the NHS

Cambridge, UK – People with dry eye symptoms now have a new treatment option for relief available through the NHS. Altacor Ltd., has launched Clinitas™ following its acceptance onto the NHS Drug Tariff this month.

Available in a package of 30, non-preserved, single-dose units, Clinitas has the highest commercially available concentration of sodium hyaluronate (SH). Each 1 ml unit contains 4 mg of SH.

As a component in the treatment of dry eye, clinical studies show its value in relieving symptoms, as well as in improving the condition of the cornea.

Clinical Validation

There are several clinical studies that validate the efficacy of Clinitas, of particular significance a study involved patients with Sjögren's Syndrome – a condition that tends to be difficult to treat successfully.

This was a randomised, controlled study involving 40 patients receiving 6 drops per eye per day over 90 days. Evaluations occurred at entry (Day 0), Day 15, 30 and at the end of the study.

Overall symptoms improvements were statistically significantly improved by the first visit (Day 15) and continued to the end of the study. Symptoms scored included burning, foreign body sensation, dryness, mucous discharge,

itching and photophobia. In terms of objective test, Tear Break Up Time (TBUT), Rose Bengal staining and corneal cytological classes all improved statistically significantly from entry values and persisted to the end of the study.¹

“Clinitas drops, with its higher concentration of sodium hyaluronate, may prove to be an additional resource in the treatment of ocular surface disease,” said Miss Andrena McElvanney, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. “The availability of this product on the NHS will make the relief of dry eye symptoms accessible to more patients with these debilitating symptoms.”

Value for Money

An economic assessment of Clinitas compared to other single-use, non-preserved dry eye therapeutics shows that clinical performance is just one benefit. Compared to other drops in this class, Clinitas also offers excellent value for money (Table). Clinitas is the least expensive treatment compared with comparable single use products, being between 1-138% less expensive.

“The scientific evidence and economic assessment demonstrate why Clinitas is an excellent choice for patients with dry eye symptoms,” said Anthony John, UK Sales & Marketing Director Altacor. “The letters and emails that we have received from consumers on their experience with the entire Clinitas range is a good indication that consumers appreciate the benefits of these drops.”

¹ Aragona P, DiStefano G, Ferreri F, Spinella R, Stilo A. Sodium hyaluronate eye drops of different osmolarity for the treatment of dry eye in Sjögren's syndrome patients. Br J Ophthalmol 2002;86:870-884.

Table. Comparison of various single use eye drops (Information source: MIMS June 2008)

Brand Name	Active Ingredient	Supplier	Pack Size	Basic NHS Price	Applications per day	30 day cost*	Price Difference compared with CLINITAS over 30 days
Clinitas	Sodium hyaluronate 0.4%	Altacor	30 x 0.5 ml	£5.70	6	£34.20	
Celluvisc	Carmellose 0.5% & 1%	Allergan	30 x 0.4 ml	£5.75	6	£34.50	+£0.30
Viscotears SDU	Carbomer 980	Novartis	30 x 0.6 ml	£5.75	6	£34.50	+£0.30
Vismed	Sodium hyaluronate 0.18%	TRB Chemedica	20 x 0.3 ml	£5.10	6	£45.90	+£11.70
Minims Artificial Tears	0.35% sodium chloride and 0.44%hydroxy ethylcellulose	Chauvin/ Bausch & Lomb	20 x 0.5 ml	£5.75	6	£51.74	+£17.54
Artelac SDU	Hypromellose 0.32%	Pharma Global Limited	30 x 0.5 ml	£13.60	6	£81.60	+£47.40

For more information contact:

Kristine A. Morrill, KAM Communications

Email: kmorrill@kamcommunications.com

Office: 020 8542 5684 Mobile: 07787 137 962

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- For more information on Clinitas, please visit: www.clinitas.info
- To arrange an interview with XXXXXX, please contact KAM Communications
- The estimated prevalence of dry eye is 7.5% among people in their 50s and rises to 15% among those in their 70s.ⁱ Dry Eye Disease is approximately 50% more common in women than in men, and the most common cause of eye irritation in people over 65 years old.ⁱⁱ Contact lens wearers are particularly predisposed to the development of dry eye, with 50-75% of wearers reporting dry eye symptoms.
- Low blink rate behaviour occurs with activities that involve intense concentration. Reading, computer work, driving at 50 km/h and driving at 100 km/h have been shown to reduce the blink rate by 53%, 66%, 45% and 68%, respectively.
- Environments that have a low relative humidity (below 40-60%) are also a risk factor for the development of dry eye. The relative humidity of an aircraft cabin is particularly low (5-20%) and dry eye symptoms are reported by about 72% of pilots during flights.
- A recent study found that people with Dry Eye Disease were about three times more likely than those without Dry Eye Disease to have problems performing common daily activities, such as reading, driving, working at the computer or watching TV.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ http://cks.library.nhs.uk/dry_eye_syndrome/in_depth/background_information

ⁱⁱ 2007 Report of the International Dry Eye Workshop (DEWS). *The Ocular Surface*. 2007;5(2):65-204.

ⁱⁱⁱ 2007 Report of the International Dry Eye Workshop (DEWS). *The Ocular Surface*. 2007;5(2):65-204.