

Replacement Schedules & Compliance: All Lenses are NOT Created Equal

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We are all well aware that replacing soft lenses on a consistent schedule is imperative to long term patient success. On-time lens replacement maximizes wearing comfort, and most importantly, it helps ensure good ocular health and protection against infection or adverse events. Keeping patients from stretching lens life or taking a lackadaisical approach to lens care is one of the most challenging aspects of contact lens practice - for all of us.

Knowing, following and communicating the recommended replacement schedule for each prescribed design is not only imperative for your patient's health, but for your own sanity as well. Patients most often stretch lens life when their current lenses are not causing problems. But did you know that in many cases, over-wear of the previous pair causes issues with the replacement lenses? Soft lenses that are worn beyond their scheduled replacement cycle can actually mold/alter the cornea slightly. This can result in replacement lenses feeling quite different on-eye and it can also create VA issues. When this occurs, it's usually beneficial to have the patient try to wear the new replacement lens for a few days to see if settling and adaptation will resolve the problems created by over-wear of the original lens. Additionally, the shape and surface of a soft lens that has been worn for several months beyond its expected life is obviously much different than a newly manufactured lens. We sometimes encounter the general complaint of "these lenses don't feel the same as my old ones" with our Intelliwave patients, and when we see the length of time between lens replacement, we are not surprised. In nearly 100% of the cases, making a duplicate pair of new lenses does not resolve the problem, because we simply can't make new "old" lenses!

At Art Optical, we currently offer both hydrogel and silicone hydrogel material options in our Intelliwave lens series. Definitive™, with a water content of 74% and a quarterly replacement indication, is the first FDA cleared, latheable silicone hydrogel soft lens material available in the U.S. Its higher water/silicone combo provides excellent on eye wetting, and with a 60 Dk, it's a great option for patients requiring specialty made lenses. However - it is unlike other silicone hydrogel lenses you and your patients may be used to, so for maximum success, we urge you to take the time to review the practitioner & patient information we supply with your orders.

The other material available in the Intelliwave line is Acofilcon B (GM Advance) with 49% water content and a semiannual replacement recommendation. This lens material works well when you are replacing discontinued lens brands as it is a great choice for patients who have grown accustomed to traditional HEMA lenses.

Another product whose performance can be adversely affected by over-wear is the KeraSoft IC lens. KeraSoft is a custom soft lens for irregular corneas that is manufactured exclusively in the Definitive silicone hydrogel material. In addition to quarterly replacement requirement of patient Rx lenses, it is also important to maintain your KeraSoft IC trial set in order to obtain predictable and accurate trial fitting results using the MoRoCCo VA guidelines. As it is essential for your trial lens to be in good shape, if you use the KeraSoft fitting set often and begin to see odd results in your fit assessment, that is an indication that it's time to replace some of the commonly used lenses in your set. Art Optical offers individual replacement trial lenses or complete 8 lens replacement sets at a reduced cost upon inquiry to our Customer Care Team @ 800.253.9364

Given the precision manufacturing and often extreme parameters of custom soft lenses, there are multiple benefits in adhering to the indicated replacement schedules. Our Consultation Team is available to help you achieve fitting success and increased patient compliance Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. EST at 800.566.8001.



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