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increased awareness of scleral lens therapeutic benefits. This allows timely referrals and might save sight in many cases.

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Global contact lens wear and purchase behaviour during COVID-19 times

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Purpose: COVID-19 has had an unprecedented global impact, including on contact lens (CL) practice. A survey was conducted with CL wearers to understand the effect on usage and wear behaviour changes during the pandemic.

Methods: A pulse survey was conducted from April 2020; 60 wearers (18-55 years) were surveyed weekly online in China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, USA, UK, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Germany* and France* (*3rd/4th week) by an independent market research company (Verve). Surveys are continuing in May/June; data presented will show attitudes over time and between countries as controls are lifted.

Results: A total of 2399 wearer surveys were completed in 11 countries during April. Results here are combined and averaged across countries for the four weekly waves. 33% were 18-34 years, 46% 35-54 years; 57% female. The majority (67%) were staying at home. 80% agreed (strongly/ slightly) CLs were essential to everyday life although 50% agreed they view them as luxury item. 61% agreed they only wear CLs when not at home (work, activities, socialising). Mean number days worn/month: pre-pandemic 20; during 14 (p < 0.05); expected post-pandemic 19. 75% historically wore CLs (higher in HK, age 11 versus 9); for ages ≥10, this increases significantly to 78%. Around 6 in 10 ECPs recommend time outdoors and less device screen time for paediatric myopes. ECPs are more likely to choose a MM product with best clinical results (58%), ease of use (44%) or an approved product (44%); in Germany & HK, product familiarity is key. Parents not wanting to put children in CLs, perceived high cost, and parents not understanding the MM need and ocular health risks are key ECP challenges.

Conclusions: This research provides evidence that, while there are some differences between countries, ECPs share strong beliefs and perceptions relating to the benefits of MM-CLs, and recognise the importance of recommending MM options, yet they experience hurdles from parents.

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Global survey on parent awareness and attitudes to myopia and its management

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Purpose: While there is interest about myopia and correction options, less is known about eye care practitioner (ECP) opinions on this topic. This research sought to understand ECP attitudes, motivations and perceived benefits of fitting myopia management contact lenses (MM-CLs) to children, along with challenges in recommending options to patients.

Methods: A large-scale, 25-minute online survey was conducted by an independent market research agency (Decision Analyst). ECPs in UK, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia/New Zealand, Germany and Spain were surveyed (August/September 2019). Statistical significance testing was performed at the 95% confidence level (p < 0.05).

Results: A total of 402 ECPs were surveyed across the 6 countries. ECPs agree on MM’s importance for fast-progressing or higher myopia in children; Aus/NZ more likely to say options should be offered to everyone. ECPs in Germany and Aus/NZ show the strongest interest in fitting MM-CL, and independent practitioners, optometrists, and those practising >15 years are more likely to consider fitting them. 50% of ECPs are comfortable putting children into CLs at age 8 (higher in HK, age 11 versus 9); for ages ≥10, this increases significantly to 78%. Around 6 in 10 ECPs recommend time outdoors and less device screen time for paediatric myopes. ECPs are more likely to choose a MM product with best clinical results (58%), ease of use (44%) or an approved product (44%); in Germany & HK, product familiarity is key. Parents not wanting to put children in CLs, perceived high cost, and parents not understanding the MM need and ocular health risks are key ECP challenges.

Conclusions: This research demonstrates that communication with parents on myopia and its management using terminology that is easily understood is important. It also demonstrates that many parents believe that young children are not suitable for contact lenses. ECPs will need to overcome this belief to offer the