INTERNATIONAL DRY EYE WORKSHOP (DEWS). UPDATE OF THE DISEASE

TALLER INTERNACIONAL SOBRE OJO SECO (DEWS). ACTUALIZACIÓN DE LA ENFERMEDAD

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The April 2007 issue of The Ocular Surface [2007 Report of Dry Eye WorkShop. Ocul Surf 2007; 5(2):65-204] is the international report of the Dry Eye Workshop (DEWS). Said international report was sponsored by the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society and made a critical review of crucial issues related to dry eye. Said issues include the definition of dry eye, a review of the current status of the disease, the various classifications found in literature, assessment and diagnostic methods, epidemiology, different options for treatment and therapy as well as the global impact of the disease in society. In addition, the report includes the future strategies for deeper study of etiology, pathogeny and treatment of the dry eye syndrome.

Said report is of particular interest because it was drawn up by an interdisciplinary team of experts made up by clinicians and scientists of different ocular surface fields with experience in specific aspects of the pathology. These experts worked over three years to finalize an updated global review. Each chapter of the report was developed by a specialized subcommittee. The research committees were named as follows: Definition and Classification of Dry Eye, Epidemiology, Diagnostic Methodologies, Design and Follow up of Clinical Essays, Dry Eye Management and therapy and Clinical and Basic research.

The goal of the Definition and Classification subcommittee was to provide a current definition of the dry eye disease as well as a classification system.

The Epidemiology Subcommittee prepared a summary of the current body of knowledge about dry eye epidemiology, including prevalence data among different populations. It also issued recommendations about a number of characteristics of dry eye questionnaires which may be adequate for epidemiological studies and clinical essays.

In turn, the Diagnostic Methodologies Subcommittee identified the tests utilized for dry eye evaluation and diagnosis, establishing criteria for the application thereof and considering the usefulness of said tests in different clinical environments.

The Subcommittee on the Design and Follow up of Clinical Essays discussed general concepts on these issues, including specific criteria related to dry eye pathology which are very useful for designing clinical essays. It also identified the peculiarities which increase the complexity of the design of clinical essays, such as the lack of correlation between signs and symptoms as well as the importance of the possible masking of the effect of the formulation essayed when utilizing a control formulation (placebo) with a lubricating effect and which may contribute to the improvement of the nontreated eye. Finally, this subcommittee also reviewed existing strategies for environmental tests and studies with controlled adverse environments.

The experts of the Subcommittee for Dry Eye Management and Therapy assessed current dry eye therapies as well as others which are still in development. In addition to reviewing existing literature, the subcommittee analyzed the dry eye standard patterns recommended by the American Ophthalmology Academy and the International Expert Group (ITF) Delphi panel for this pathology. The treatment recommended by this subcommittee were selected on the basis of the therapies which evidenced a therapeutic effect.

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Finally, the members of the Clinic and Basic Research Subcommittee made a review of the basic mechanisms of the disease in relation to each of the various elements involved therein (tear film, main and secondary lacrimal glands, corneal epithelium and conjunctiva, meibomium glands, lacrimal conduit and immune system). The subcommittee analyzed the data obtained from research in animals and humans, identifying the areas of greater relevance for future research.

At the end, the document mentioned a Business Link committee as well as information on the financial interests which each of the members of the subcommittees has at present.

Accordingly, the results of this International Dry Eye Workshop 2007 are summarized in a document of great interest which will serve as a guide for clinicians, epidemiologists, researchers and professionals of the pharmaceutical industry. Said document is freely available at the organization’s website (www.tearfilm.org). In the near future, translations into several languages will be posted, including Spanish.

**REFERENCES**
