Contact Lens Health Week — August 20–24, 2018

August 20–24, 2018, marks the fifth annual Contact Lens Health Week. In collaboration with partners from clinical, public health, industry, and regulatory sectors, CDC is promoting healthy contact lens wear and care practices to reduce the risk for eye infections among the approximately 45 million persons in the United States who wear contact lenses. Research after outbreaks of rare but serious eye infections in the United States has indicated that these infections occur most often in contact lens wearers who do not take proper care of their contact lenses, indicating a need to promote safer wear and care (*1,2*).

A report in this issue of *MMWR* reviews cases of contact lens–related eye infections associated with sleeping in contact lenses. Other reported habits in addition to sleeping while wearing lenses were swimming while wearing lenses and not replacing lenses and storage cases as often as recommended. Some of the patients sought care in an emergency department where it is more costly to receive care, and some of the infections led to serious adverse health outcomes.

Contact lenses can pose an infection risk, especially if they are not worn and cared for properly. Practicing proper contact lens hygiene is important for keeping contact lens wearers' eyes healthy.

Additional information on Contact Lens Health Week and the proper wear and care of contact lenses is available at https://www.cdc.gov/contactlenses.

CDC receives an annual contribution from the Contact Lens Institute to support CDC's Healthy Contact Lens Program. The Contact Lens Institute had no involvement in the drafting or review of this report.

References

1. Verani JR, Lorick SA, Yoder JS, et al.; Acanthamoeba Keratitis Investigation Team. National outbreak of *Acanthamoeba* keratitis associated with use of a contact lens solution, United States. Emerg Infect Dis 2009;15:1236–42. https://doi.org/10.3201/eid1508.090225
2. Chang DC, Grant GB, O'Donnell K, et al.; Fusarium Keratitis Investigation Team. Multistate outbreak of *Fusarium* keratitis associated with use of a contact lens solution. JAMA 2006;296:953–63. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.296.8.953

Corneal Infections Associated with Sleeping in Contact Lenses — Six Cases, United States, 2016–2018

Jennifer R. Cope, MD[1]; Nuadum Muriel Konne, MPH[1]; Deborah S. Jacobs, MD[2]; Deepinder K. Dhaliwal, MD[3]; Michelle K. Rhee, MD[4]; Jia Yin, MD, PhD[2]; Thomas L. Steinemann, MD[5,6]

Contact lenses, when worn and cared for properly, are a safe and effective form of vision correction used by an estimated 45 million Americans. However, contact lens wearers are at risk for contact lens–related eye infections, especially when wearers do not practice proper contact lens wear and care habits. These infections, affecting the cornea and known as microbial keratitis (Figure), can lead to serious adverse health outcomes. Because contact lenses are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as medical devices, contact lens–related corneal infections should be reported to FDA as an adverse event. To illustrate their serious health implications, six cases of contact lens–related corneal infection, in which sleeping in lenses was reported as the main risk factor, are presented. Consequences of infection reported among the

Continuing Education examination available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention