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Dear FDA

Referring to docket number #03D0118

I, as well as many of my patients have been concerned about the use of contacts without a prescription since contacts can and do damage eyes when not properly used. The following is an example from my practice.

A thirteen year old boy who was correctable to 20/20 with contacts and instructed on their use, returned for a yearly exam. He had decided on his own to begin sleeping in them and did so for about 3 months straight. His best corrected vision is now 20/30 and we are trying to treat it with steroids to preserve his vision. This child had been instructed in a clinical setting with parent present and still had problems using the contacts correctly. Fortunately we see very few of our patients with these problems due to strict rules in our office for training and follow-up care, but we do see more come in from the street that have abused contacts due to poor control with 1-800 companies or lack of initial training because they got contacts from a friend or vendor. What logic can be used to say that a "cosmetic" contact interfaces with the eye differently than a prescription contact? Shouldn't we be concerned about the increased numbers of visual damage we will see if we let people (primarily kids) get contacts without care?

All contacts should require a prescription and monitoring by trained eye professionals.

Sincerely,



Dr. James Ferrell

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