

Research Brief for Eye Care Practitioners: scleral lenses

what can they do for you and your patients?

The applications of contemporary scleral lenses are wide-reaching. Lacey Haines, Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry and Vision Science, explains why she believes it would benefit any practice to offer this specialty service.

Consider scleral lenses for patients with:

» IRREGULAR CORNEAS

Scleral lenses are designed to vault over the cornea and rest on the sclera. In patients with irregular corneas due to disease, trauma or surgery, it is easier to fit the sclera than it is to fit the cornea.

» OCULAR SURFACE DISORDERS

The bowl of the lens is filled with fluid before insertion. This fluid forms a protective cushion between the lens and the cornea.

» NORMAL EYES

Scleral lenses offer superior vision due to their use of gas permeable materials, large optic zones and ability to incorporate complex optics such as multifocal and astigmatic corrections.

» INTOLERANCE OF OTHER CONTACT LENS DESIGNS

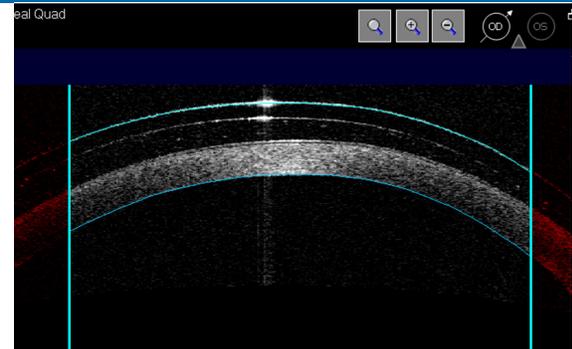
The edges of a scleral lens rest (i) on the sclera, which is much less sensitive than the cornea, and (ii) underneath the eyelids, which avoids lid interaction with the lens edge. These characteristics lead to improved patient comfort.

FOR SUPPORT AND MORE INFORMATION

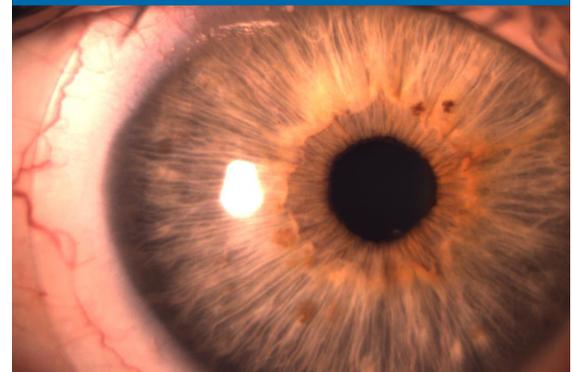


- GP Lens Institute (www.gpli.info)
 - Scleral Lens Education Society (www.sclerallens.org)
 - *A Guide to Scleral Lens Fitting 2.0* (Eef van der Worp)
- * Many scleral lens labs offer additional training and consultation.

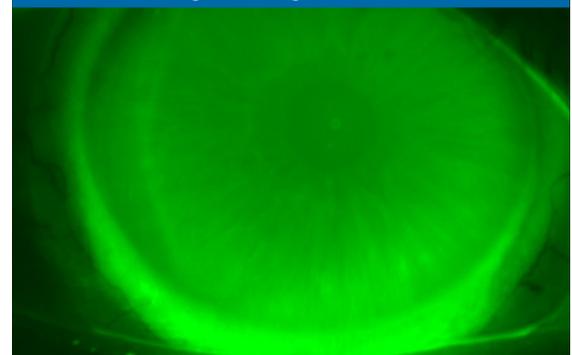
» For more resources like this visit contactlensupdate.com



Anterior segment OCT image of a scleral lens vaulting over the cornea



Slit lamp image of a scleral lens on eye; shows edge resting on sclera.



Slit lamp image under blue light; shows fluid between lens and cornea.