Early patient-reported satisfaction in patients initiated on perfluorohexyloctane for dry eye disease

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BACKGROUND

- Dry eye disease (DED) is characterized by a loss of tear film homeostasis and affects approximately 8.1% of people in the United States (over 27 million individuals in 2024)[1,2]
- DED is a multifactorial disease of the tear film and ocular surface characterized by symptoms of discomfort, visual disturbance and tear film instability, with potential damage to the ocular surface leading to redness, burning, stinging and irritation
- The discomfort and visual inconsistency of DED may interfere with activities of everyday living such as reading, driving, and the use of screens/monitors ultimately impacting the quality of life (QoL) and well-being of the individual
- Standard of care is determined by severity of symptoms, beginning with lifestyle modifications, moving to topical treatments and in rare circumstances, surgery.[3]
- Perfluorohexyloctane ophthalmic solution (PFHO) was approved in September 2023, the first in class treatment for dry eye that specifically targets excessive tear evaporation.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to:

(i) Characterize patient reported satisfaction with PFHO
(ii) Characterize patient's willingness to refill PFHO
(iii) Identify patient's history of over-the-counter (OTC) treatment
(iv) Concurrent assessment of patient's refill rate

METHODS

Adult patients newly initiating treatment with PFHO or another prescription DED medication (cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion 0.05% (CsA)) were identified in the Veradigm Network EHR Database linked to a claims database

Survey Component: Patients contacted through the FollowMyHealth patient engagement platform and recruited by secure message to participate in the survey

Index Period: September 15, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Index Date: First PFHO or CsA prescription for DED

Baseline Period: 12 months prior to the index date

Patient Selection Period for Survey: September 15, 2023 – February 28, 2025

METHODS

Survey Questions Administered:

- Patient's level of satisfaction with their current dry eye treatment
- Patient's intent to refill their current dry eye medication
- Prior use of OTC treatments

Survey Question Scale:

- Patient's level of satisfaction with their dry eye treatment was measured on a 5-point scale ranging from "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied"
- Patient's intent to refill their dry eye medication was measured on a 5-point scale ranging from "very unlikely" to "very likely"

RESULTS

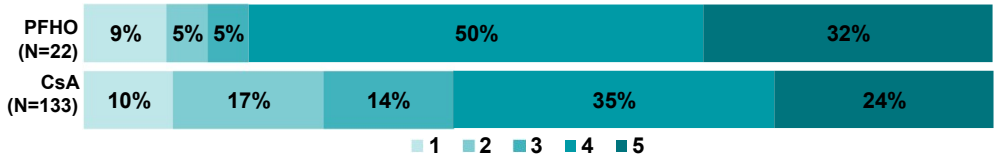
Over the course of the patient selection period for survey administration, 22 patients initiated on PFHO and 133 patients initated on CsA provided completed responses to the survey.

Table 1. Patient sociodemographics and clinical characteristics

	PFHO (N=22)	CsA (N=133)
Age, years, mean (SD)	61.0 (12.9)	63.9 (11.5)
Gender, %		
Female	86.4	82.7
Male	13.6	17.3
Race, %		
White	77.3	78.2
Black	4.5	3.8
Asian	0.0	2.3
Other	9.1	3.0
Unknown/not responded	9.1	12.8
Ethnicity, %		
Hispanic	0.0	0.0
Non-Hispanic	77.3	81.2
Unknown	22.7	18.8
Geographic region, %		
Northeast	27.3	39.1
Midwest	4.5	18.0
South	68.2	39.8
West	0.0	2.3
Unknown/Other	0.0	0.8
History of Cataract, %	22.7	33.1

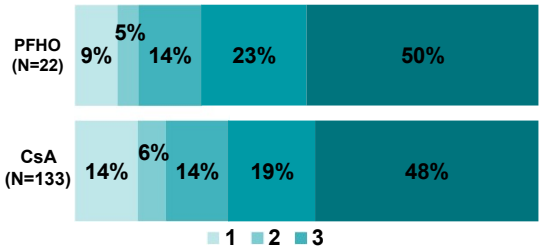
RESULTS

Survey Question 1: How satisfied are you with your current prescription dry eye medication?

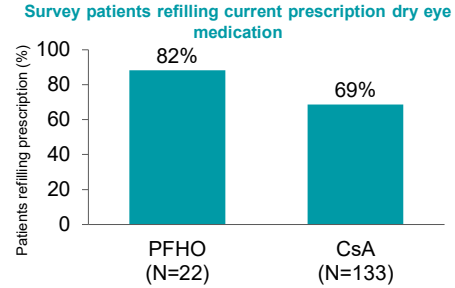


82% of patients who initiated on PFHO were satisfied with their prescription compared with 59% of patients initiating CsA

Survey Question 2: How likely are you to refill your current prescription dry eye medication?

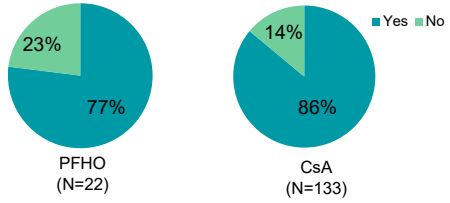


73% of patients initiating PFHO responded favorably to refilling their prescription versus 67% of patients initiating CsA



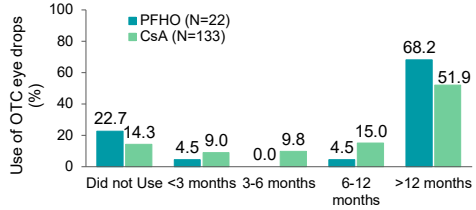
82% of patients in the PFHO group and 69% in the CsA group had refilled their prescription dry eye medication

Survey Question 3: Prior to starting your prescription medication for dry eye, have you used OTC eye drops?



Majority of the patients in the PFHO group (77%) and in the CsA group (86%) have previously used OTC eye drops

Survey Question 3a: How long did you use OTC eye drops?



68.2% of patients in the PFHO group and 51.9% in the CsA group had prior usage of OTC eye drop for more than 12 months

CONCLUSION

- PFHO patients reported high satisfaction with their medication, with a vast majority refilling their prescription
- Almost all PFHO patients had prior OTC eye drop usage for more than 12 months, potentially identifying a subset of the patient population likely to benefit from the novel treatment for DED