**FLUORESOFT - 0.35%®**

**Catalog No. AOFLS**

**FLUORESOFT®** is a large molecular weight fluorescent solution developed for use as a diagnostic and fitting aid for patients wearing hydrogel contact lenses. It may be used for both soft and hard lenses. (1, 2)

**FLUORESOFT®** is to be used topically in the eye with or without the hydrogel lens in place, whenever the use of sodium fluorescein is contraindicated, most commonly to avoid the staining of hydrogel lenses by sodium fluorescein.

**IMPORTANT:** When used with lenses of greater than 55% hydration, it is possible that a small amount of coloring may be picked up by the lens. This coloring may be removed by washing the lens repeatedly with a washing solution approved for the lens, followed by rinsing with saline or water. Any residue coloring will wash out with the tear flow when the lens is reinserted in the eye. With highly hydrated lenses, the amount of coloring picked up will vary with the exposure to FLUORESOFT®. (3) It is therefore recommended that unnecessary delays in the examination procedure be avoided when using highly hydrated lenses in order to minimize the washing time.

**CAUTION:** Sterile non preserved solution. For single patient one time use only.

Do not use solutions containing hydrogen peroxide to clean or sterilize the lenses until all traces of FLUORESOFT® have been removed, since this oxidizing agent can bind the FLUORESOFT® molecules to the lens.

**CONTRAINDICATION:** Do not use where patient has exhibited prior sensitivity to sodium fluorescein.

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF FLUORESOFT - 0.35%® AMPULES**

**FLUORESOFT®** ampules are provided in strips containing 5 ampules/strip. For use, twist off each ampule as needed. To open, twist off cap portion. Since this product is for single patient one-time-use only, discard ampoule after use.

**FLUORESOFT®** may be placed in the eye as follows - Place one drop of FLUORESOFT® on the concave surface of the lens and place the lens immediately on the eye of the patient.

Alternately, place one or two drops in the lower cul-de-sac and have the patient blink several times to distribute the solution under the lens. As the dye passes under the lens, one may observe a central dark zone of 6 to 9mm in diameter, i.e. a limbal fluorescent ring about 2mm wide, which forms after each blink. If such a staining pattern cannot be observed immediately, one may slide the lens upward by gently pushing it with a finger, causing the dye to penetrate under the lens as it slides back into normal position. Additional drops of FLUORESOFT® may be used if the fluorescence starts to dissipate after prolonged examination. When the examination is completed, it is recommended that both the eye and the lens be rinsed with saline. The lens may be reinserted immediately, as opposed to the long waiting period required after the use of fluorescein. (4, 5, 6)

It is important that the examination period should begin immediately after inserting the FLUORESOFT® drops, since this material tends to dissipate readily with the tear flow leading to a progressive reduction in fluorescence. Prolonged examination may require sequential application of FLUORESOFT® drops.

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**CLINICAL USES:**

**FLUORESOFT®** is ideal for the assessment of proper fitting characteristics of hydrogel lenses, for quickly and accurately locating the optic zone in aphakic or low plus lenses, and for evaluating corneal integrity of patients wearing hydrogel contact lenses. In many instances, staining will show definite correlation with the edge of the optic zone, indicating improper bearing surfaces.

**FLUORESOFT®** is an excellent fluorescent diagnostic solution to use in place of sodium fluorescein when conducting the tear breakup time (B.U.T.) test. It contains no anesthetics or surfactants that change the characteristics of the patient’s normal tear film. Because of the high degree of accuracy in determining the tear breakup time measurements.

**FLUORESOFT®** is excellent for detecting patients exhibiting marginal dry eye conditions that could affect contact lens wear.

**Applanation Tonometry** may be quickly conducted without the inconvenience to the patient necessitated by the long wait before the contact lens can be reinserted when using sodium fluorescein anesthetics. After seating the patient at the slit lamp, and either removing the contact lens or displacing it to the side, instill a drop of Proparacaine or similar topical anesthetic, followed a minute or two later by a drop of FLUORESOFT®. The reading should be taken immediately after, followed by rinsing out the eye and replacing the contact lens. (9)

**Toric Lenses:** **FLUORESOFT®** is ideal for locating the axis markings. Use as directed above for fitting contact lenses.
HELPFUL INFORMATION ON IMPROVING THE FLUORESCENCE OF FLUORESOFT® DURING CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS

Fluorescence is determined by the number of fluorescence-emitting molecules available in a drop of solution instilled in the eye. Since sodium fluorescein molecules are somewhat lighter than the molecules in FLUORESOFT® at a given concentration, there are more of them in any given volume (or drop) of solution. In addition, the concentration of material and subsequent number of molecules in FLUORESOFT® is kept at a lower level than commercially available sodium fluorescein preparations in order to avoid penetration into and subsequent staining of hydrogel lenses. As a result, the amount of visible fluorescence obtained by using a drop of FLUORESOFT® is necessarily less than that obtained by using a drop of sodium fluorescein solution.

It is therefore desirable to intensity the visible fluorescence given off by FLUORESOFT® and increase the contrast by selecting the best illumination procedure available. Two methods have been found to provide adequate fluorescence for fitting and diagnostic work.

The first method which provides maximum fluorescence and contrast has been used for decades with sodium fluorescein in medical diagnostic work, and can be applied to FLUORESOFT® since the absorption and emission wavelengths of the two products are virtually the same (7). This method utilizes a slit lamp light source in front of which is placed a Kodak Wratten #47A (blue) filter. A Kodak Wratten #6 (yellow) filter is placed in front of the objective eyepiece, or alternately, viewing may be done with yellow spectacles or shooting glasses in order to increase contrast. Alternately, a separate quartz halogen light source (similar to a slide projector) with a 47A filter may be substituted for the slit lamp light source if desired. This procedure allows observation with subdued light in the examining room.

An alternate method which may be used when the Kodak Wratten filters are not available involves setting the slit lamp light source to maximum illumination with the slit wide open. The magnification should be set at 16x with the cobalt blue filter in place to obtain adequate visible fluorescence using this method, the room lights should be dimmed completely in order to improve the contrast between the fluorescing area and the dark blue background. (8)

References:


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