



# Eye on Health

## Microscopic Camera Examines Endangered Eye Cells

(NAPSA)—Over the next year, more than a million North Americans are expected to undergo laser surgery or other corrective eye measures. However, eyecare specialists say corrective treatment is only part of the solution.

A study released last year by the American Academy of Ophthalmology indicated that long term contact lens wear appears to decrease corneal thickness and increase corneal curvature, size and irregularity.

“We are certainly not suggesting people throw away their contact lenses,” said one of the study’s authors, Stephen C. Pflugfelder of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. “What we are saying is that both surgeons and patients need to be aware of the potential risk factors and complications if the patients have worn contact lenses for a long period of time.”

The cells at the back of the cornea, which help to maintain proper levels of fluids and nutrients, don’t replace themselves if damaged—and if enough cells are damaged, the cornea itself becomes endangered.

“Effective eyecare begins with a thorough eye examination, including an examination of the cells at the back of the cornea,” says Dr. Jerry Sherman, a New York-based eyecare provider.

Experts advise long-term contact lens wearers and others with vision problems to see an eyecare specialist and insist on an examination that includes taking a photograph of the cells at the back of the cornea. The high cost of cameras capable of taking such photographs had prevented their widespread use, but Konan Medical’s recently introduced, low-cost instrument now makes it possible for virtually every eyecare special-



**Are the cells in your cornea in danger? An eye doctor can now find out with the help of a low-cost camera.**

ist to provide such examinations.

The microscopic camera is a non-intrusive device that focuses an invisible infrared beam on the back of the cornea for about three seconds. It simply takes a photo of the cells without touching the eye in any way.

By examining the photos, the eye doctor can determine if the patient has experienced any problems with this important cell layer. Healthy cells should be uniform in size and shape. Variations indicate cell changes that could affect vision.

The eye doctor may determine that the cornea is not healthy enough to benefit from laser surgery. For many patients, however, examination by a Konan microscopic camera may result in a recommendation to change the type of contact lens being worn or for a simple form of laser surgery known as LASIK.

For more information, speak with your eyecare professional or visit [www.konanmedical.com](http://www.konanmedical.com).