

From: Don C. Railsback O.D.
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2004 6:07 PM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: contact lens rule no. R411002

TO: FTC

FROM: DR. DON RAILSBACK DR. CAMERON SCOTT RE:

CONTACT LENS RULE PROJECT NO. R411002

Last week we had a patient present in our office with contact lens complications that illustrate the problem with self prescribing and the importance of seeking regular care. The FTC trade rule should address the importance of verifying that a prescription does exist, the number of refills and that the patient is being monitored by a doctor.

Patient, S.S., a 14 year-old white female, presented in our office with complaints of difficulty seeing at distance. Her last visit in our office was in December of 2000. Our office had not fit her in contact lenses and she had not been seen by another doctor since her last visit in our office. Upon further questioning her mother admitted to ordering contact lenses from a "web site" by simply typing in her daughter's spectacle Rx, randomly picking the other required numbers from drop down menus and choosing the brand that was advertised as the cheapest. She was sent Acuvue 2 lenses and had been wearing them on an extended wear basis. Upon examination, it was discovered that she had .75mm neovascularization (new blood vessel growth) and enough corneal edema and distortion that an accurate refraction was impossible. The patient was counseled to remove her contact lenses and return in one week for re-refraction to allow her corneas to recover. At this time the patient was refit and educated about proper wear, handling and the potential problems associated with neovascularization and contact lenses. This patient was totally unaware that she was having problems, other than the fact that her vision was a little blurry.

This level of neovascularization in a 14 year-old patient who has worn contact lenses a short period of time is totally unacceptable. In addition, she was at risk for a corneal ulcer which could have caused serious vision loss and therefore life long complications.

This case represents the difficulty that the consumer has understanding that contact lenses are medical devices placed on living human tissue and require a proper fitting and follow-up to ensure the long term health of their eyes.

Don C. Railsback O.D.

=====

Don C. Railsback O.D.

Kansas

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Small Business \$15K Web Design Giveaway

http://promotions.yahoo.com/design_giveaway/