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EyeMatters
A PRACTICE BUILDING RESOURCE
Bausch & Lomb
Perfecting Vision. Enhancing Life.™

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Bausch & Lomb

The Five Myths of Masking Astigmatism: Myth #4

Myth #1 – Visual acuity with low cylinder toric lenses is not significantly better than with single vision spherical lens correction

Myth #2 – The risk of variable vision with toric lenses is too much of a trade-off relative to the assurance of stable spherical vision

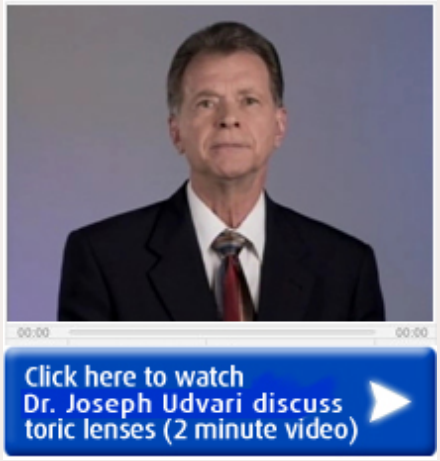
Myth #3 – Toric lenses aren't as comfortable as spherical lenses

Myth #4 – Significantly more chair time is required to fit toric lenses

Myth #5 – The higher cost to patients of toric lenses is a barrier relative to spherical lenses

In our last article, we dispelled the myth that toric lenses aren't as comfortable as spherical lenses. In this edition we will discuss the misperception that it takes significantly more chair time to fit toric lenses.

When it comes to fitting toric lenses, it's reasonable to raise the issue of "chair time", particularly when addressing low cylinder patients. Getting a lens to fit the first time, rather than after a series of trial lenses, is the ideal.

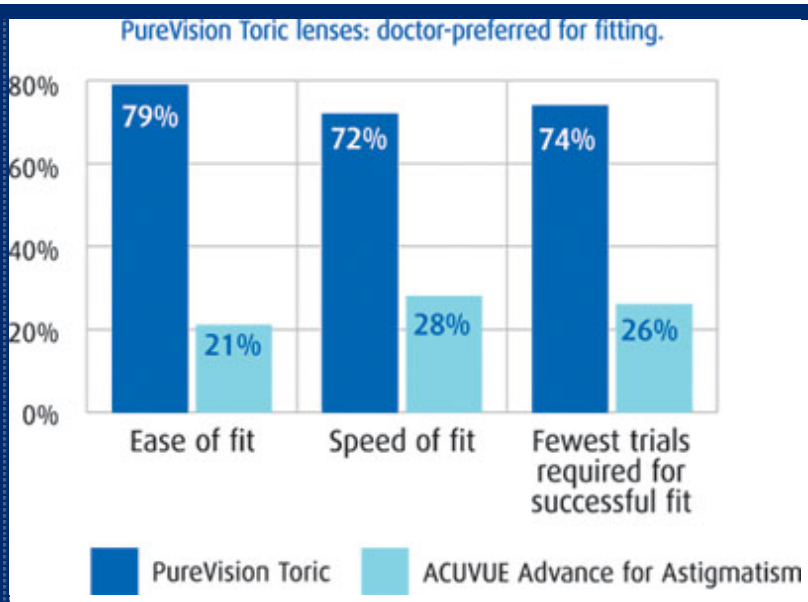


Today, manufacturers have designed toric lenses to fit the majority of eyes, and several of the market-leading toric lenses have been designed to fit most eyes with a single base curve and diameter. The concept of a single base curve and diameter being appropriate for most eyes was evaluated in a large, multi-centered clinical. In this evaluation, 900 astigmatic patients were fitted with Bausch & Lomb PureVision® Toric lenses. At the 1-Month follow-up visit, practitioners rated the fit of the single base curve acceptable for 96% of patients.[1]

In recognition of the importance of providing products that allow you to meet the needs of astigmatic patients, Bausch & Lomb expanded the number of parameters of the PureVision Toric lens…including more powers with -0.75 D cylinder for astigmatic patients wearing spherical lenses. In fact, the PureVision toric lens has 60% more parameters than its leading competitor's silicone hydrogel toric offering. The silicone hydrogel material, flexible wear schedule, unique design and expanded parameters of PureVision Toric lens provides you with greater opportunity for fitting success.

It's no wonder eye care professionals agreed that PureVision Toric lenses were easy to fit on 99% of their astigmatic patients wearing spherical lenses.[1] The lens delivers dependable orientation, exceptional rotational stability and consistent fitting success. Even versus a leading competitive silicone hydrogel toric design, the PureVision Toric lenses are preferred for ease and speed of fit among eye care professional, Table 1[2].

Table 1



With PureVision Toric lenses you have the ability to offer a great toric lens design with an appealing one month / overnight modality that helps increase compliance and shorten time between annual exams.[3] Furthermore, the added levels of health and comfort associated with silicone hydrogel lenses, makes fitting patients in silicone hydrogel toric lenses both easy and satisfying.

All-in-all, fitting masked low-cylinder patients with PureVision Toric lenses is worthwhile when you also consider the exceptional vision you're providing these patients. In the PureVision Toric lens evaluation, significantly more masked low-cylinder patients could achieve 20/20 or better acuity.[1] Make PureVision Toric lenses your first choice for astigmatic patients and you'll realize increased patient satisfaction at your practice.

Please look for our discussion of our final myth, "The higher cost to patients of toric lenses is a barrier relative to spherical lenses" in the next edition of *EyeMatters*. If you miss any editions of the *EyeMatters* series you can go to our news archive at http://www.eyematters.com/archive.asp.

Sincerely,
Mike Pier, OD
Director, Professional Relations – Practitioner Education

1. Results from a clinical evaluation conducted at 112 sites in eight countries in which 900 astigmatic patients wearing spectacles (n=119), spherical contact lenses, or toric contact lenses (n=629) were fitted with PureVision Toric lenses. After using the PureVision Toric lenses for one month, patients completed a forced choice questionnaire in which they chose product preferences for specific attributes. Practitioners provided lens fit, slit lamp evaluations, and product performance rating information at each visit.

2. Results from an independent 2006 survey of 95 eye care professionals performed by Directive Analytics. Participation was limited to eye care professionals who had fitting experience with all brands of silicone hydrogel toric lenses available at the time of the represent eye care professionals' ratings among those with a preference.

3. Data on File Bausch & Lomb Incorporated. 2007

Brief summary of intended use: The Bausch & Lomb PureVision Toric (balafilcon A) Visibility Tinted Contact Lenses are indicated for daily wear or extended wear for up to 30 nights between removals. **Warnings:** The risk of microbial keratitis has been shown to be greater among users of extended wear contact lenses than among users of daily wear contact lenses. The long-term risk of microbial keratitis has not been determined for this lens. Post-marketing studies are in progress. **Precautions:** Some patients will not be able to tolerate continuous wear even if able to tolerate the same or another lens on a daily wear basis. Some patients who are able to tolerate continuous wear will not be able to wear their lenses continuously for 30 nights. Patients should be carefully evaluated for continuous wear prior to prescription and dispensing, and eye care professionals should conduct early and frequent follow-up examination to determine ocular response to continuous wear. **Side effects:** During the one-year US study of the PureVision lens (spherical), 2.9% of the 820 eyes that were fit with the PureVision lens in one eye experienced infiltrative keratitis. Other less serious side effects were mild forms of dryness, discomfort, and burning and stinging. **Contraindications:** The lens should not be used in the presence of any inflammation, infection, disease or injury in or around the eye or eyelids that interferes with contact lens wear. The lenses should not be used by individuals who have a systemic disease or an allergic condition that might interfere with contact lens wear. Consult the Package Insert/Fitting Guide for complete information about PureVision Toric contact lenses, available from Bausch & Lomb at 1-800-828-9030 or www.bausch.com.

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