

Maintaining Your Blanchard Scleral Diagnostic Sets

Wet or Dry

The lenses in your diagnostic fitting set may be kept in either a dry state or a wet state during storage. Lenses stored wet will immediately exhibit excellent wetting capabilities and will not need to be conditioned prior to application. Disadvantages to wet storage are that you increase the chances of microbial contamination as the solution evaporates and you increase the time and maintenance necessary for the upkeep of your lenses. Should you choose to store your diagnostic lenses wet, you will need to disinfect the lens case/holder and replace the storage/disinfection solution every 30 days to maintain an aseptic state. For this reason, Blanchard Contact Lenses recommends that you store your scleral diagnostic sets dry.

Preparing the Lens Stored Dry for Application

A lens that has been stored dry should be cleaned and conditioned prior to applying to a patient's eye. Clean the lens with an approved GP cleaner such as Optimum by Lobob ESC or a similar daily cleaner. Rinse the lens thoroughly with saline. Condition the surface with a multipurpose solution containing hyaluronic acid that will bind to the surface of the lens and increase its wettability. Apply the lens to the patient's eye using a non-preserved, non-buffered saline, such as AddiPak (off-label) or LacriPure.

Disinfecting the Diagnostic Lens

After the diagnostic fit of the patient, the lens must be disinfected prior to placing it on the eye of another patient. The American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association recommend the following disinfection protocol:

- 1) Protective gloves should always be worn throughout the disinfecting process.
- 2) Clean lens with an approved gas permeable lens cleaner.
- 3) Place 3% hydrogen peroxide – that has approval for use with contact lenses – along with the GP lens in a non-neutralizing case. Leave the lens there to disinfect for **three hours**
- 4) Rinse the lens with a saline or a soft multipurpose solution.
- 5) Take the extra step to make sure that the case within the fitting set is completely dry. Any liquid in the case could cause the lens to bind to the case creating a non-wetting surface and increasing the likelihood of microbial contamination.

Sources:

** In-Office Disinfection of Multi-Patient Use Diagnostic Contact Lenses; American Academy of Optometry & American Optometric Association*

**Dust Off Those Diagnostic Lenses; Stephanie Woo, OD; Review of Cornea and Contact Lenses; 4/15/2014*