



# The Magnifier

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## MACULAR DEGENERATION SHOULDN'T KEEP YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE FROM ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

In April of 2007, we first published an article about The MacVision lens technology. It all started when macular degeneration began to destroy his wife's vision and UNM Physics and Astronomy Professor Emeritus McAllister Hull devised an innovative technology that redirects light to the retina in a way that benefits the vision of some people. The patented MacVision lens technology, unlike common hyper-magnification devices, directs light to portions of the retina unaffected by the disease to compensate for the loss in the central vision field.



Patient preferences and vision conditions vary among individuals. In prototype evaluation in low-vision clinics, 70% of individuals who tried the MacVision technology reported some benefit.

The first MacVision product is a hand-held vision aid for reading mail, bottle labels, shopping tags, and other short text areas.

Hopefully, the end product will be glasses that can be custom made to accommodate each patient's vision loss. The hand-held product sells for \$199.00 plus S&H. You may call toll free 1-888-928-7672 or you may order online at <http://www.macvisionlens.com>

## A REPORT FROM THE ENVISION CONFERENCE

This conference was held in September 9-12, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas. A multi-disciplinary low vision rehabilitation and research conference, this brought a large segment of the low vision community together to share presentations and to network on a personal level. Low vision specialists provide specific training for a wide-range of eye disorders. For macular degeneration, patients are trained to use his or her remainder vision, identify magnification aides, and learn to overcome safety and independent living challenges.

The Psychosocial Adjustment to Vision Loss presentation provided a framework for understanding a patient's adjustment to vision loss and to provide skills for the practitioner to relate to the patient. The stages of adjustment to vision loss can be very much like the stages of grief.

- \* **Denial** (this isn't happening to me!)
- \* **Anger** (why is this happening to me?)
- \* **Bargaining** (I promise I'll be a better person if...)
- \* **Depression** (I don't care anymore)
- \* **Acceptance** (I'm ready for whatever comes)

### Macular Degeneration Foundation

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Henderson, NV 89053

Website:  
[www.eyesight.org](http://www.eyesight.org)

Telephone:  
1-888-633-3937

Another interesting presentation, The Eye and the Brain: A Review of Charles Bonnet Hallucinations and Ring Scotomas for the Vision Rehab Clinician described the experience of hallucinations and ring scotomas.

Charles Bonnet syndrome (CBS) is a condition that causes patients with visual loss to have complex visual hallucinations, first described by Charles Bonnet in 1760 and first introduced into English-speaking Psychiatry in 1982. The human brain can, indeed, make up things that aren't there — sights, sounds, feelings.

## **THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY'S WORLD CONGRESS MET ON SEPTEMBER 16-18,2009**

The Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology presented The Eye and The Auto, an International Conference on the relationship between vision and the safe operation of a motorized vehicle.

The fields of visual science, medicine, ophthalmology, psychology, corporate research, and related academic pursuits should be partners with the auto industry on future manufacturing.

Auto technology progresses each year to give drivers who are visually impaired more safety amenities that can increase the time before the cessation of a driver's license occurs. " Statistics show that the citizen whose vision is 10/100 with mild macular degeneration is not the killer on our highways; instead, it is the 10-25 year-olds with perfect vision who are often driving while under the influence of alcohol at 2:00 a.m. "I am hoping eventually to convince various motor vehicle licensing bureaus that simply measuring visual acuity is not only an inefficient, but an unfair way to issue licenses," states Dr. Philip Hessburg, M.D., President of DIO. Alcohol-related accidents account for 40% of traffic fatalities.

Many older drivers with MD actually have very few accidents. Why? Because they only drive where they feel comfortable; they rarely or never drive at night; and they only drive a few miles a week.

## **BLOOD THINNERS INCREASE RISK OF RETINAL HAEMORRHAGE IN PATIENTS WITH MACULAR DEGENERATION: PRESENTED AT RC2009**

By Cameron Johnston

NEW YORK -- October 7, 2009 -- Patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) who are being treated with anticoagulant and antiplatelet drug such as aspirin, warfarin, and clopidogrel run a significant risk of retinal haemorrhage, according to a study presented on October 2 at the Retina Congress.

According to Daniel Kiernan MD, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, each of these drugs is associated with an increased risk of haemorrhage. Of the patients taking either antiplatelets or anticoagulants, 63% developed retinal haemorrhage compared with 29% who were not taking these drugs.



## **MACUCLEAR AND MYSTIC SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE PHASE IB CLINICAL TRIAL FOR MACULAR DEGENERATION**

The preliminary results indicated that MacuCLEAR's MC-1101 drug is safe and well tolerated by study participants, and has a biological effect on blood flow in the back of the retina. Mystic's VersiDoser™ ophthalmic delivery system was used by trial participants to self-administer MC-1101 to the front of the eye during the trial. The study included Proof Of Concept indicators. A key finding of the study was the successful migration of the drug to the back of the eye.

"We are very pleased with the groundbreaking results of this study," said Philip G. Ralston, Jr., President and CEO of MacuCLEAR. "We have confirmed the safety of MC-1101 in humans, a primary endpoint for the study." Ralston added, "We are excited about the implications of the proof of concept part of this study. Using special laser Doppler flow instrumentation, we showed MC-1101 gets to the back of the eye and significantly modulates the blood flow in the choroid, the tiny blood vessels in the back of the macula portion of the retina. This study provides additional scientific evidence supporting our theory that restoring blood flow in the choroid will have a positive affect on preventing the progression of this terrible disease that is the leading cause of blindness for people over the age of 50 in the world." MacuCLEAR will publish the full results of study later this year.

Mystic Pharmaceuticals' President and CEO, Timothy Sullivan, stated, "We are pleased to have partnered with MacuCLEAR to develop a drug/delivery system combination that has the potential to provide a simpler, safer and ultimately cost effective solution to the millions of people suffering from this disease." Ralston added that, "Mystic's delivery system provided key benefits for both MacuCLEAR and the trial participants. Mystic's novel unit dose approach to packaging each eyedrop individually enabled us to use a preservative free formulation and the control Mystic's technology provides for calibrated precision dose delivery and spray plume definitely enhanced absorption of the drug to the back of the eye." Ralston and Sullivan presented a summary of the trial results at the Texas Emerging Technology Fund Investment Symposium on October 8, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson, Texas.

## **LOW VISION GLASSES AN OPTION FOR SIGHT-IMPAIRED**

Optometrist Jeffrey Sonsino of Vanderbilt Eye Institute recently created Illuminated Low Vision Glasses. They combine a high-powered L-E-D light in the frame, magnifying lenses, and prism correction that prevents eye fatigue.

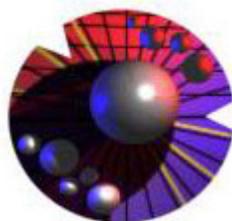
VIDEO: <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/news/releases.php?release=36>

"Those three things together provide magnification and enhanced contrast when the patient is reading at very close distance," Sonsino says. "This doesn't cure anything, but what this does, is it allows people with the condition to function better." In a study, the glasses improved patients' reading abilities by almost 90-percent compared to regular glasses. Dr. Sonsino says the cost for the glasses is still being researched, but they are expected to be more affordable than a pair of bifocals.

## **INTERNATIONAL MACULAR DEGENERATION SUPPORT GROUP WEBCASTS NOW AVAILABLE ON IPOD**

Support group presentations are now available to everyone with the purchase of the iPod Shuffle. With a simple click of a button, the iPod Shuffle reads aloud a list of titles and presenters.

This comes with more than 30 selected informational and motivational programs from the audio library of the International Macular Degeneration Support Group. Listen to recognized leaders in low vision discuss:



- Latest research
- Daily Living Skills
- Diet and nutrition
- Causes and treatments
- Low vision devices
- Coping strategies

This is the answer to quick information and pleasurable listening. To order from MD Support: Send your name and address with a check or money order for \$89.00 to MD Support, 3600 Blue Ridge Blvd, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

Your existing support group can become an affiliate or you can start a support group and become an affiliate by clicking on this link: <http://www.mdsupport.org/nsg.html>. If you cannot get to a support group and want to become part of a "phone support group" call (816) 761-7080.

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### **CONTACTING MDF**

To speak to a support representative directly, you may call 1-888-633-3937. If you reach our voice mail, please speak slowly and distinctly.

### **MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Please make checks payable to Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, Nevada 89053, or you may use your credit card on our web site <http://www.eyesight.org>. Your contributions make our services available as a support system for macular degeneration patients in the following ways:

1. We provide toll-free lines for personal contact assistance.
  2. We mail brochures and other printed materials upon request.
  3. We support an award-winning web site that provides the latest up-to-date information.
  4. We fund research proposal grants to provide therapies for both the wet and dry form of AMD.
- Contributions marked "research" are used 100% for research.

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MDF was founded in 1992 by Edmund J. Aleksandrovich Ph.D (a victim of macular degeneration). It provides MD patients and their families with the information necessary to understand the disease, the latest news concerning ways to cope with the disease, and supports the efforts of researchers to find a cure.