

ANHANG 1

STUDY REPORT

**A randomised comparative study to determine the safety and efficacy of
"OPHTHALIN" versus Healonid® (both 1% w/v Sodium Hyaluronate solutions)
during intraocular surgery**

Report CT 9101

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CONTENTS

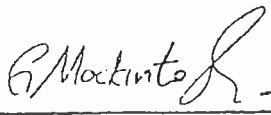
	<u>Page</u>
<u>TITLE PAGE</u>	1
<u>CONTENTS</u>	2
<u>DECLARATION</u>	4
<u>QUALITY ASSURANCE STATEMENT</u>	5
<u>SUMMARY</u>	6
1. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	8
2. <u>PATIENTS AND METHODS</u>	10
2.1 Study design	10
2.2 Patient population	10
2.3 Drugs and dosage	11
2.4 Study procedures	12
2.5 Adverse events	13
2.6 Randomisation methods	13
2.7 Data management methods	14
2.8 Statistical methods	14
2.9 Drug analysis	14
2.10 Study conduct	15
2.11 Archives	15
3. <u>RESULTS</u>	16
3.1 Patient population	16
3.2 Protocol violations and deviations	16
3.3 Demography	16
3.4 Treatment details	17
3.5 Clinical results	17
3.6 Safety evaluation	25
4. <u>DISCUSSION</u>	27
5. <u>REFERENCES</u>	28

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
A Final Protocol including Patient Consent and Information Forms and Case Record Forms	29
B Investigators and Staff	101
C Certificate of Analysis	102
D Randomisation Schedule	105
E Regulatory Approval	110
F Ethics Committee Approval	112
G Patient Demographic Data	117
H Secondary Variables	119
I Patient Data Listings	124
J Adverse Event Listing	168
K Listing of Concomitant Medication by Patient	204


DECLARATION

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that this study was performed in accordance with the principles of Good Clinical Practice. The study was conducted according to the procedures herein described and this report represents a true and accurate record of the results obtained.



Date: 5/9/98

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REPORT NO CT 9101

The data presented in this report have been audited against the Case Report Forms, by the Quality Assurance Unit of Inveresk Research International. This report accurately reflects the data generated during the conduct of the study.

Signed: D. Watson Date: 13th September 1994
(Quality Assurance)

SUMMARY

A randomised, comparative study to determine the safety and efficacy of "OPHTHALIN" versus Healonid® (both 1% w/v Sodium Hyaluronate solutions) during intraocular surgery

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

To compare the safety and efficacy of "OPHTHALIN", a bacterially derived sodium hyaluronate solution (1% w/v), with that of Healonid®, a licensed sodium hyaluronate solution (1% w/v) derived from a biological source.

STUDY DESIGN:

This was a single blind (double blind to assessing investigator) randomised, comparator controlled, single centre study.

SITE:

The study was performed at a single site:

Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion
Chalmers Street
Edinburgh
EH3 9HA
UK

PATIENTS:

A total of 42 patients were enrolled and evaluated. Twenty-eight patients were treated using "OPHTHALIN" whilst the remaining 14 were treated using the comparator product (Healonid®).

TRIAL MEDICATION:

Patients were randomised to receive either "OPHTHALIN" (consisting of 0.5 ml of a 1% w/v solution of bacterially derived sodium hyaluronate in buffered saline) or the comparator product (consisting of 0.5 ml of a 1% w/v solution of biologically derived sodium hyaluronate in buffered saline). Both products were supplied in sterile syringes.

CLINICAL MEASUREMENTS:

The primary variable was the investigator's assessment of the success of the operative procedure. Other measurements made were intraocular pressure, corneal thickness, endothelial cell count (and percentage cell loss). Sodium hyaluronate performance, patient recovery and adverse events were also monitored.

RESULTS:

The operative procedure was successful in all patients with both products. There were no significant differences in intraocular pressure, corneal thickness or corneal endothelial cell counts between groups. The performance of the sodium hyaluronate was assessed as "good" or "very good" in all patients and there was no difference between treatment groups. Patient recovery was "good" or "very good" in almost all cases with no difference between products.

CONCLUSIONS:

"OPHTHALIN" (a 1% w/v solution of bacterially derived sodium hyaluronate) appeared to be as safe and as clinically useful as the product currently licensed for sale, Healonid® (a 1% w/v solution of biologically derived sodium hyaluronate)

1. INTRODUCTION

Sodium hyaluronate, a large polysaccharide molecule, is present in nearly all connective tissue matrices of vertebrate organisms (1). In the human body, it is an important structural element of the skin, subcutaneous and interstitial connective tissues, synovial tissue and fluid, umbilical cord, and the vitreous. In the eye, sodium hyaluronate is found not only in the vitreous but also, at a much lower concentration, in the aqueous humour and in the connective tissues of the angle (2).

During eye surgery to replace a lens made opaque by cataract, the eyeball must be penetrated to remove the lens and replace it with an artificial one. Sodium hyaluronate is introduced into the anterior chamber through a small cannula, before lens extraction, in order to protect the corneal endothelium and to maintain a deep anterior chamber. The maintenance of a deep anterior chamber during surgery allows efficient manipulation during surgery and produces less trauma to the corneal endothelium and other surrounding tissues (3). In order to implant an intraocular lens an additional amount of sodium hyaluronate may be introduced before insertion of the intraocular lens and it may also be used to coat the artificial lens and surgical instruments. Once the intraocular lens has been implanted in the anterior chamber the sodium hyaluronate is removed by irrigation with sterile solution of isotonic saline to avoid elevated intraocular pressure in the postoperative period (4, 5).

The amount of sodium hyaluronate administered during surgery should be sufficient to maintain the integrity and depth of the anterior chamber and to enable safe insertion of the lens, without leaving any excess material in the eye.

The rationale behind this study was to compare a currently licensed sodium hyaluronate product Pharmacia's Healonid (derived from cocks's comb) with a bacterially derived hyaluronate product ("OPHTHALIN"). The objective of this study was to compare the safety and efficacy of these two sources of sodium hyaluronate.

The title of the original clinical trial protocol was:

"A double-blind, randomised single centre study to determine the bioequivalence and assess the efficacy of a 1% w/v Sodium Hyaluronate solution, from two separate sources, during intraocular surgery".

However, this does not truly reflect the purpose of the study. As sodium hyaluronate is not a pharmacologically active substance, but rather a relatively inert material used clinically for its physical property of viscoelasticity, the use of the term "bioequivalence" is not considered appropriate. Rather, the study was a randomised study to determine the comparative safety and efficacy of "OPHTHALIN" when compared with Healonid® (both 1% w/v sodium hyaluronate solutions) during intraocular surgery.

It is the viscoelastic property of sodium hyaluronate that makes it an ideal support material in ophthalmic surgery. Used during surgery as a 1% w/v solution (in phosphate buffered saline) it not only maintains a deep anterior chamber, affording valuable space during operative procedures, but also reduces post-operative problems. Reported post-operative corneal endothelial cell loss following extracapsular cataract extraction has been found to average 14% when Ringer's lactate was used but averaged 6% when sodium hyaluronate has been used. The difference was significant ($p < 0.01$) (6).

2. PATIENTS AND METHODS

2.1 Study Design

This study was a randomised study designed to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of "OPHTHALIN" in comparison to a licensed sodium hyaluronate product. Parameters utilised to judge the comparative efficacy of "OPHTHALIN" with the licensed product were:

- i) the investigator's (operating surgeon's) assessment of the handling characteristics of the products during surgery and initial success of the operation;
- ii) the co-investigator's subsequent assessment of the success of the operation.

The study was open with respect to the first of these assessments (due to the different syringe design) and double-blind with respect to the second. The evaluation of the subsequent success of the operation was carried out by a second investigator (co-investigator) who was unaware of the treatment received by each patient.

In addition to the above, the following measurements were carried out:

- i) intra-ocular pressure;
- ii) corneal endothelial cell count;
- iii) corneal thickness;
- iv) adverse events;
- v) patient recovery.

2.2 Patient Population

The study population consisted of adult patients with proven cataract requiring lens replacement surgery. Patients had previously presented at, or been referred to, the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion, Edinburgh and had a well documented history of cataract.

2.2.1 Inclusion Criteria:

- a. Adult males, or post menopausal females (or females using a recognised reliable form of contraception) with proven cataract who would normally be considered eligible for surgery to replace the affected lens.
- b. Patients of either sex aged 18 or over.

2.2.2 Exclusion Criteria:

- a. Patients whose intraocular pressure was ≥ 22 mm Hg.
- b. Patients with glaucoma, a personal history of glaucoma or an anatomic anomaly causing glaucoma.

- c. Patients receiving any topically applied drugs which influence intraocular pressure (ie timolol, acetazolamide).
- d. Patients with previous anterior segment inflammation or trauma (surgical or otherwise).
- e. Patients with a known corneal endothelial cell count of ≤ 1000 cells.mm⁻².
- f. Patients who had received anticoagulant 4 days prior to surgery.
- g. Patients who had received another experimental drug within the previous six weeks.
- h. Patients with a known hypersensitivity to sodium hyaluronate.
- i. Positive pregnancy test, unreliable contraception, lactating mothers.
- j. Patients incapable of giving written informed consent or complying with the protocol.
- k. Patients who regularly came into contact with horses.

2.3 Drugs and Dosage

2.3.1 Study Medication

Both the study and reference medications were 1% solutions of sodium hyaluronate in phosphate buffered saline supplied in sterile disposable syringes with a cannula. Syringes were capable of delivering 0.5 ml.

2.3.2 Formulation

Test medication ("OPHTHALIN")

Sodium hyaluronate 10 mg
Sodium chloride 8.5 mg
Disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate 0.28 mg
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate 0.045 mg
Water for injection to 0.5 ml

Reference medication (Healonid®)

Sodium hyaluronate 10 mg
Sodium chloride 8.5 mg
Disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate 0.28 mg
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate hydrate 0.04 mg
Water for injection to 0.5 ml

2.3.3 Batch Numbers

Batch numbers of material used were:

"OPHTHALIN" - 512111 (expiry date 14 October 1995)

Healonid® - SM 47152 (expiry date November 1994)

The Certificate of Analysis for the "OPHTHALIN" test substance is included in Appendix C.

2.3.4 Storage Instructions

The medication was stored at 2-8°C and protected from light and freezing.

2.3.5 Labelling, Emergency Code Break and Dispensing Instructions

The outer package and syringe were labelled with the patient number. The label on the outer packaging employed a tear off portion bearing the patients number and was affixed to the appropriate page of the Case Record Form.

A sealed randomisation envelope accompanied the trial medication containing the identity of the contents. This envelope was only to be opened in an emergency to reveal the identity of the patient's medication.

2.3.6 Dosage Schedule

The sodium hyaluronate solution was administered by injection into the anterior chamber of the eye during surgery on Day 2 of the study. The time of administration was recorded. All patients received treatment with 0.5 ml of 1.0% w/v sodium hyaluronate administered intraocularly using a 27 gauge Rycroft cannula. The precise amount of sodium hyaluronate used during surgery was determined by the specific clinical requirements for each individual patient. However, no patient received more than 0.5 ml of 1.0% sodium hyaluronate solution and 0.5 ml was the amount recorded for each patient on the case record forms.

2.4 Study Procedures

Pre-study Visit

It was planned that patients would attend an out-patient clinic to enable a baseline measurement of corneal thickness and endothelial cell count to be performed. In the event this test was performed for all patients on Day 1. Endothelial cell counts and corneal thickness were determined by specular microscopy (7). The patients pupil was dilated by topical administration of a 1.0% tropicamide solution. The microscope was then focused onto the cornea and the thickness of the cornea measured and recorded. Photographs were taken of different areas of the cornea, and a result in number of cells per mm² obtained.

Day 1

On admission to hospital a patient considered eligible for recruitment into the study was examined and questioned about their medical history. If he/she was eligible for the study they were given the patient information leaflet (see Appendix A) and the opportunity to ask questions. The patient was then asked to give their informed consent and details of the physical examination and medical history were transcribed onto the Case Record Forms.

Day 2

The patient underwent surgery to remove the lens affected by cataract and replace this with a prosthesis. During the operative procedure the surgeon used the test or comparator material as per normal procedure. After the surgery had been completed the surgeon made an assessment of the efficacy of the sodium hyaluronate and noted any relevant points concerning the operative procedure. The patient had their eye examined and IOP measured using a slit lamp microscope (applanation tonometry) 4 hours after surgery, and was then asked if they had suffered any Adverse Events or had any comments.

Day 3

The patient was asked if he/she had suffered any Adverse Events or had any comments. They then had their eye examined, IOP and corneal thickness measured and their corneal endothelial cell count determined. The Investigator made further assessment of the success of the operative procedure, noted any changes in IOP, inflammation, and details of any drugs administered or changes in concomitant medication. A number of patients were discharged at Visit 3, as the Investigator considered that progress was satisfactory.

Day 4

Procedures as for visit 3 but corneal thickness and endothelial cell counts were not recorded. If the investigator considered that the patient's progress was satisfactory then the patient was discharged.

Day 15

Procedures as for Visit 3. In addition the Investigator made a final overall assessment of the efficacy of sodium hyaluronate. The percentage loss of endothelial cells was calculated and the corneal thickness recorded at this visit and the Study Completion Forms were completed.

2.5 Adverse Events

All adverse events were recorded on Adverse Event Forms and those which were classified as serious were reported to the study sponsor immediately. Adverse events were classified by intensity (mild, moderate, severe) and by causality (probable, possible, unrelated, insufficient evidence).

2.6 Randomisation Methods

A randomisation scheme was produced by the Production Department, Fermentech Medical Limited to comply with protocol design. A total of 42 patients received treatment in a random manner so that 28 patients received the test substance,

"OPHTHALIN", and 14 the comparator product, Healonid®. A block size of 6 was selected and, of every 6 patients recruited, 4 received "OPHTHALIN" and 2 received Healonid®.

A copy of the randomisation list is included in Appendix D.

2.7 Data Management

At the study initiation the CRA reviewed facilities for suitability and ensured that the Investigators and other relevant staff understood the study protocol. During the study the CRA monitored study progress and data collection. A total of 12 monitoring visits were performed. A source data verification check was performed on 38% of patients recruited.

A computer database, for both Case Record Form and Adverse Event Form data, was set up for this study using Microsoft Access. Relevant data were exported from this system in d-Base IV format to a SAS system for statistical analysis.

2.8 Statistical Methods

Data were supplied as a d-Base IV file to Dr R Prescott, Department of Medical Statistics, University of Edinburgh for analysis. This file was converted to a SAS-PC file using DBMS/COPY(8). With the exceptions noted below, all subsequent calculations were undertaken using SAS version 6.4 on a DCS 486 microcomputer operating under OS-2.

Comparisons between the two treatment groups, of mean changes from baseline in outcome variables, were made using the two-sample t-test, with the calculation of 95% confidence intervals being based on mean \pm t (standard error of mean).

Confidence limits for the success of the operative procedure within each treatment group employed the tables for exact confidence limits published in Documenta Geigy Scientific Tables(9).

Comparisons of patient recovery, for which the responses form a short ordered scale, were by an exact version of Mantel-Haenszel test for trend in a 2x2 contingency table. Scores of 1 to 4 were allocated to the outcome categories. Exact probabilities were calculated using a calculator in the first instance, and were checked using the StatXact package. In this package the test is described as the Trend Test with Equally Spaced Scores(10).

2.9 Drug Analyses

No drug analyses were performed as the test and comparator materials are not bioavailable.

2.10 Study Conduct

The study was performed under regulatory approval from the UK authorities (CTX 12331/0001/A). A copy of the CTX letter is included as Appendix E.

The protocol, Patient Consent Form and Patient Information Sheet (included as Appendix A) were submitted for consideration by the Ethics Review Committee of the study centre. The approval letter and composition of the Committee are included in Appendix F.

The study was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki and the Tokyo (1975), Venice (1983) and Hong Kong (1989) revisions. Informed consent was obtained from each patient before study entry.

2.11 Archives

All data generated and recorded during this study, including a copy of the final report, will be stored in the Scientific Archives of Fermentech Medical Limited for 15 years after issue of the final report.

The investigator will retain copies of all CRFs at the institution at which the study was conducted for 15 years.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Patient Population

A total of 42 patients were recruited at the one centre participating in this study. The patients were randomised into 2 unequal groups with 28 patients receiving the test substance, "OPHTHALIN", and 14 patients receiving the reference substance, Healonid®. The first patient entered the study on 19 March 1993 and the final patient completed the study on 24 May 1993. Full details of patient randomisation are given in Appendix D.

There were no patient withdrawals during the study.

3.2 Protocol Violations and Deviations

The following deviations from the trial protocol occurred:

- at total of 42 patients entered the study (and not 36 patients as planned);
- the pre-study visit did not take place as detailed in the protocol, instead patients had baseline measurements recorded on Day 1;
- some patients had surgery performed on the day of admission.

Formal protocol amendments were not issued for these deviations.

3.3 Demography

Demographics of the treatment groups at the time of randomisation are given in Table 1 below. A more complete listing is given in Appendix G.

TABLE 1

	"OPHTHALIN"	Reference Treatment
Number of Patients	28	14
Male	10 (36%)	5 (36%)
Female	18 (64%)	9 (64%)
Parameter	Mean (S.D.)	Mean (S.D.)
Age (years)	71.3 (11.0)	76.1 (5.8)
Height (cm)	164.8 (8.6)	163.4 (7.8)
Weight (Kg)	73.8 (18.8)	69.6 (15.7)

Concomitant disease was present in the majority of patients (all details are given in Complete Data Lists included as Appendix I). The most common concomitant diseases are given below.

Disease	"OPHTHALIN"	Reference Treatment
Hypertension	8 (29%)	2 (14%)
Angina	4 (14%)	4 (29%)

A listing of concomitant medication received by individual patients is given in Appendix K. All patients were receiving some form of medication, the most being Betnesol-N drops (given to all patients).

3.4 Treatment details

Patients recruited into this trial had their lens replacement surgery performed under local or general anaesthetic depending on the patient's clinical condition (eg respiratory function). A lid speculum was placed in the eye and a superior rectus stay suture inserted to help immobilise the eye. The cornea was kept moist and clear by regular application of sterile isotonic saline.

An opening was made into the anterior chamber of the affected eye, into which sodium hyaluronate was injected. The anterior lens capsule was then surgically removed from the eye. The initial incision was extended and the lens nucleus was evacuated. The lens cortex was then irrigated/aspirated with sterile balanced salt solution/Hartmann's solution after which a further injection of sodium hyaluronate was given. The artificial lens was then implanted into the eye and, once the lens was secured, suturing of the wound commenced. All excess sodium hyaluronate was removed by irrigation/aspiration with sterile balanced salt solution/Hartmann's solution. The stay sutures were removed followed by the lid speculum, and finally all suture lines were completed and appropriate dressings applied.

3.5 Clinical Results

3.5.1 The primary measure of efficacy was the investigator's assessment of the operative procedure (ie the physical success of maintaining a deep anterior chamber enabling the artificial lens to be implanted). In all cases the operation was regarded as a success (in 100% of "OPHTHALIN" and Healonid® cases).

With 28 patients in the group treated with "OPHTHALIN" it can be calculated that the population success rate with "OPHTHALIN" is at least 89.9% (with a 95% confidence limit). With 14 patients treated in the comparator group the population success rate with Healonid® is at least 80.7%.

3.5.2 Other parameters assessed were intraocular pressure, corneal thickness, corneal endothelial cell counts, sodium hyaluronate performance and patient recovery.

Change in Intraocular Pressure

The intraocular pressures throughout the study are summarised in Table 2. There was a small rise in intraocular pressures at one and two days post operation of approximately 2 mmHg. The rises did not differ significantly between the treatment and comparator groups and by the third post-operative day, levels had returned to baseline.

Change in Corneal Thickness

There was a mean rise of 0.04 mm in corneal thickness by the second post-operative day. At two weeks this had reduced to a mean increase of 0.02 mm. In neither instance was there a statistically significant difference between the treatment groups (Table 3).

Change in Corneal Endothelial Cell Counts

Corneal endothelial cell counts have reduced by an average of 5.5% at both 2 days and 2 weeks post operation, relative to the baseline count. Due to errors in the counting procedures 2 patients had apparent small rises post-operatively, which should not be possible. For statistical purposes, these values have been accepted since to correct them to zero would introduce a small bias when examining average changes. There were no statistically significant differences between the mean changes in treatment groups (Table 4).

Cell counts were not available on all patients and, by chance this was more common in the "OPHTHALIN" group. Six patients in this group had no baseline values and 2 others had no subsequent counts.

Sodium Hyaluronate performance

On the first post-operative day, the performance of the sodium hyaluronate was assessed as "good" for every patient with the exception of two treated with "OPHTHALIN" where it was assessed as "very good". At two weeks post-operatively performance was assessed as "good" for 27 patients and "very good" for the remaining 15, with identical results for both formulations (Table 5).

Patient Recovery

This was assessed on a five-point scale on all patients on the second post-operative day and at two weeks. It was also recorded in 22 of the 42 patients on the third post-operative day. Ninety three percent of patients were rated as

"good" or "very good" throughout. At two weeks, one patient in each treatment group was assessed as "poor". There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment groups (Table 6).

TABLE 2 - INTRAOCULAR PRESSURES (mmHg) BY VISIT AND TREATMENT GROUP

	Fermentech Formulation			Pharmacia Formulation			p*	95% CI for difference (Pharmacia-Fermentech)
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.		
Baseline	28	15.8	2.1	14	14.8	3.1		
First postoperative day	27	17.1	7.4	14	17.1	6.2		
Difference from baseline		1.3	7.1		2.3	8.1	0.68	-3.9, 6.0
Second postoperative day	28	17.2	5.8	14	18.1	5.7		
Difference from baseline		1.4	5.6		3.3	5.5	0.31	-1.8, 5.6
Third postoperative day	15	15.5	2.7	8	11.5	6.9		
Difference from baseline		-0.7	3.9		-2.3	8.5	0.56	-6.8, 3.8
Two-week follow-up	28	16.0	4.5	14	16.8	5.3		
Difference from baseline		0.1	4.8		2.0	4.3	0.23	-1.2, 4.9
Maximum postoperative value	28	21.8	5.2	14	20.3	4.7		
Difference from baseline		6.0	5.6	14	5.5	4.8	0.79	-4.0, 3.1

* p-value based on two-sample t-test

TABLE 3 - CORNEAL THICKNESS (mm) BY VISIT AND TREATMENT GROUP

	Fermentech Formulation			Pharmacia Formulation			p*	95% CI for difference (Pharmacia-Fermentech)
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.		
Baseline	24	0.597	0.043	14	0.575	0.035		
Second postoperative day	21	0.643	0.051	13	0.606	0.042		
Difference from baseline		0.044	0.039		0.033	0.043	0.44	-0.040, 0.018
Two-week follow-up	19	0.620	0.046	14	0.596	0.037		
Difference from baseline		0.020	0.025		0.021	0.026	0.94	-0.017, 0.019
Maximum postoperative value	22	0.643	0.053	14	0.611	0.035		
Difference from baseline		0.045	0.036		0.036	0.038	0.44	-0.035, 0.016

* p-value based on two-sample t-test

TABLE 4 - CORNEAL ENDOTHELIAL CELL COUNTS (cells/mm²) BY VISIT AND TREATMENT GROUP

	Fermentech Formulation			Pharmacia Formulation			p*	95% CI for differences (Pharmacia-Fermentech)
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.		
Baseline	22	2496	287	14	2522	412		
Second postoperative day	17	2376	247	13	2322	412		
% reduction from baseline		4.4	5.0		7.4	6.5	0.17	-1.3, 7.2
Two-week follow-up	20	2354	274	14	2370	374		
% reduction from baseline		5.2	5.8		5.7	4.8	0.77	-3.3, 4.4
Minimum postoperative count	20	2333	262	14	2308	388		
% reduction from baseline		6.0	5.7		8.3	5.9	0.25	-1.8, 6.5

*p-value based on two-sample t-test

TABLE 5
HYALURONATE PERFORMANCE BY VISIT AND TREATMENT GROUP

Performance	First Postoperative Day		Two-week Follow-up	
	Fermentech Formulation	Pharmacia Formulation	Fermentech Formulation	Pharmacia Formulation
Good	26	14	18	9
Very Good	2	0	10	5
p-value (Fisher's Exact Test)	1.0		1.0	

TABLE 6 - PATIENT RECOVERY BY VISIT AND TREATMENT GROUP

Recovery Assessment	Second Postoperative Day		Third Postoperative Day		Two-Week Follow-Up	
	Fermentech Formulation	Pharmacia Formulation	Fermentech Formulation	Pharmacia Formulation	Fermentech Formulation	Pharmacia Formulation
Poor	0	0	1	0	1	1
Average	2	1	0	0	1	0
Good	25	12	13	7	20	11
Very Good	1	1	0	1	6	2
<u>Total</u>	28	14	14	8	28	14
X ² *	0.15		1.55		0.26	
P	0.75		0.21		0.61	

* Test for trend in the contingency tables (Mantel-Haenszel Test)

3.6 Safety Evaluation

No specific laboratory checks (*eg* haematology or clinical chemistry) were performed after surgery. The patients were monitored following normal in-patient practice for up to 4 days after admission. Patients were discharged from hospital on days 3 or 4 (assuming an uneventful postoperative period). Specific follow up procedures were the measurement and recording of IOP, endothelial cell counts, corneal thickness and the administration of Betnesol-N drops prophylactically at a dose of 1 or 2 drops *qid* for each eye. If IOP was raised, then treatment with timolol or acetazolamide was initiated. Full details of the treatment were recorded and an Adverse Event Form completed. If the eye became inflamed then corticosteroid drops were administered until the inflammation had subsided and details recorded as above.

Adverse events are summarised in Table 7 and a full data listing is provided in Appendix J. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment groups for any individual category of adverse events, nor for the total number of patients reporting at least one adverse event.

It should be noted that, due to the design of the Case Record Form and Adverse Event Form, there were several instances when adverse events were noted on the CRF but not recorded on an Adverse Event Form. However, these inconsistencies do not affect the conclusions that can be drawn from the data.

TABLE 7 - ADVERSE EVENTS BY TREATMENT GROUP

AE Description	Permentech Formulation Number of patients (%)	Pharmacia Formulation Number of patients (%)	p*
Sore eye	13 (46)	4 (28)	0.44
Raised IOP	5 (18)	2 (14)	1.00
Headache	8 (29)	2 (14)	0.53
Hyphaema	5 (18)	3 (21)	1.00
Rash	1 (4)	0 (0)	1.00
Nausea	1 (4)	1 (7)	1.00
Ocular haemorrhage	1 (4)	2 (14)	0.50
Ocular oedema	4 (14)	1 (7)	0.90
Capsular tear	2 (7)	0 (0)	0.88
Uveitis	1 (4)	1 (7)	1.00
Miscellaneous : e.g. neomycin allergy, RBC debris	2 (7)	2 (14)	0.81
Total number of patients with ADE	22 (79)	11 (79)	0.67
Total number of patients	28	14	

* Based on Fisher's Exact Test

4. DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of sodium-hyaluronate produced by a novel bacterial method and to compare this with the currently available product produced from an animal source (cock's combs).

The study was small (28 patients treated with "OPHTHALIN" and 14 treated with Healonid®) and was undertaken at a single centre. However, the results indicate that the clinical usefulness of the new product is comparable to that of the currently licensed product. Also, the safety profile of the 2 products is similar with no new or unexpected adverse events being recorded with the new product.

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