

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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Dear Doctor,

Acanthamoeba keratitis among contact lens users

I am writing to alert you that the United States (US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published its findings of a recent increase in incidence of contact lens related *Acanthamoeba* corneal infections in the US on the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Dispatch issued on 26 May 2007. According to the report, there has been an increase in cases of *Acanthamoeba* keratitis (AK) since early 2004. The CDC had completed interviews with 46 patients who developed AK, since January 2005. A total of 39 patients were soft contact lens wearers, 21 reported using Advanced Medical Optics' Complete® MoisturePlus™ (AMOCMP) multipurpose cleaning solution. The manufacturer has undertaken a voluntary recall of the product on 26 May 2007. In Hong Kong, the Department of Health has also urged contact lens wearer to stop using AMO Complete® MoisturePlus™ contact lens solution.

Acanthamoeba keratitis (AK) is a rare but potentially blinding infection of the cornea. It is caused by a free-living amoeba (*Acanthamoeba*) that is found commonly in the environment. It can affect healthy persons who wear contact lenses. Clinical features may include severe eye pain disproportionate to size of ulcer, eye redness, blurring vision, sensitivity to light, sensation of foreign body in the eye and excessive tearing. Untreated infection can cause vision loss. Therefore, early diagnosis is essential for effective treatment of AK.

If you come across clients presented with symptoms and signs of keratitis, please refer them to consult an ophthalmologist for assessment and treatment. Your assistance is also solicited to provide health advice to your clients on proper disinfection of contact lenses and its accessories.



衛生防護中心乃衛生署轄下執行疾病預防及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health Protection is a professional arm of the Department of Health for disease prevention and control

Yours sincerely,

(Dr SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
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