

## International Workshop Previews MGD Report

Staff 6/11/2010

At this year's meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Dysfunction gave attendees a preliminary glimpse of their comprehensive report on gamut from the anatomy and physiology of the gland and proper definitions and classification the result of just over a year of research by the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society.

"The objective of the workshop was to gather an international group, much like the approach, the meibomian gland in health and disease," says Kelly Nichols, OD, PhD. It's a very large survey report like you'd find in Survey of Ophthalmology or The Ocular Surface. The workshop is composed of seven subcommittees, each of which tackled a different aspect. The eighth subcommittee made up of representatives from the ophthalmic companies that

Though the members of the workshop are keeping all of their findings under wraps at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and Visual Science, they discussed some of the conclusions at ARVO.

Some of these findings involved a clear definition and classification of meibomian gland dysfunction at the University of Minnesota. The workshop members hope that you'll see this page when they discuss the disease in the future.

In his presentation, Dr. Nelson defined meibomian gland dysfunction as a "chronic condition characterized by terminal duct obstruction and/or qualitative/quantitative changes in the gland. Symptoms of eye irritation, clinically apparent inflammation and ocular surface disease. The workshop prefers the term hypersecretory MGD over the term "seborrheic dermatitis." "Seborrheic dermatitis is a skin condition, some suspect caused by a fungus," he says.

While hypersecretion refers to increased/excessive meibum production, seborrheic dermatitis refers to excessive production of sebum by the skin's sebaceous glands.

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Dr. Nelson also addressed inflammation's role in MGD. "I don't think inflammation within any of the different conditions," he says. "For example, inflammation may or important to recognize inflammation, since it influences what the therapeutic approach

Many of the workshop's subcommittee reports have been finalized, but several are reports are ready they'll be submitted to IOVS, and will probably be published together

"Certainly, it's very timely," says Dr. Nichols. "There's a significant amount of interest around the world and the continued interest in ocular surface disease in general. [The gland to date."

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