

PRESS RELEASE

INNOVATION IN OPHTHALMOLOGY MADE IN ITALY: NTC HAS DEVELOPED THE FIRST COMBINATION OF LEVOFLOXACIN AND DEXAMETHASONE EYE DROPS

NTC, an Italian pharmaceutical company specializing in ophthalmology, has developed the first eyedrops containing a fluoroquinolone wide spectrum antibiotic and a standard of care cortisone for the post-surgical treatment of cataract.

The drug reduces the duration of therapy after surgery by 50%.

Milano, 13th May 2021- Now available in the Italian pharmacies the new eyedrops "made in Italy" for the prevention and treatment of inflammation as well as the prevention of infections associated to cataract surgery in adults. The drug, developed by NTC, combines a fluoroquinolone wide spectrum antibiotic, levofloxacin, with dexamethasone a reference cortisone in ophthalmology.

"Cataract surgery is one of the most common interventions worldwide and over the years surgical techniques have made giant strides, becoming even more precise and accurate; unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the therapeutic strategies post-surgery, which have been the same for 40 years, and are based on administering antibiotics and steroids for 14 days", explains **Edoardo Ligabue, Coordinatore Servizio di Oculistica e Chirurgia Oculistica, CDI - Centro Diagnostico Italiano**. "This new formulation 'two in one', represents a step forward in the post-surgery management of cataract. It simplifies the administration, improving therapeutic adherence, also in light of the fact that most patients are old and struggle with two different drugs, and at the same time it has an important impact on the duration of treatment", he concludes.

To highlight the efficacy of the eyedrops, NTC designed and conducted LEADER7, a phase 3 randomized, double-blind, parallel arm, multi-center international clinical study on 800 patients in 50 centers. The study results showed that a week's treatment with the combination levofloxacin/dexamethasone followed by dexamethasone alone for 7 days was not inferior when compared to two weeks of treatment with tobramycin and

dexamethasone. Furthermore, it was seen that 85% of the patients treated for one week with the new fixed-dose combination, (levofloxacin and dexamethasone) showed no signs of ocular inflammation, showing that in the majority of patients the use of corticosteroids for seven days was sufficient to control the inflammation.¹

“This is the first study comparing two different topical antibiotic prophylaxis regimens of different duration” – commented **Luca Rossetti, Professore Ordinario Università degli Studi di Milano, Direttore Clinica Oculistica ASST Santi Paolo e Carlo, Milano**. The reduction in post-surgery treatment from 14 to 7 days is an important aspect, because on the one side it allows the opportunity to optimize the use of corticosteroids, and hence reduce their side-effects, and on the other to reduce the exposure to antibiotics and, as a consequence, reduce the probability of the insurgence of antibiotic resistance. Finally, the shorter duration of treatment, along with the commodity of having both active ingredients in the same solution, represents an important element in improving adherence to therapy for those patients who have undergone cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery is one of the most frequent ophthalmic interventions worldwide, with roughly 600,000 annual surgeries in Italy and it is for this reason that we are extremely happy to have developed and made available a solution which can simplify life for so many people. It has been a major pharmaceutical technology challenge, as the two molecules were unstable in a single solution. Furthermore, combating antibiotic resistance is a significant theme for NTC and to be able to offer a solution addressing this is a source of pride. The value of this product is reflected in the fact that we have granted distribution rights in over 80 countries in 5 continents. For NTC it is the first true global product, made in Italy”, concludes **Riccardo Carbucicchio, President and CEO di NTC**.

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