

Survey Shows Dry Eye Disease Patients Want a Quicker Path to Treatment

In time for Healthy Aging Month, Bausch + Lomb releases a new survey on dry eye patient experiences among Canadians.

Vaughan, ON, Canada – [September 2026] – September is Healthy Aging Month and Bausch + Lomb is dedicated to supporting a key factor of aging: eye health. Conditions like dry eye disease increase with age, with the highest prevalence among those over 55 years of age¹. We are committed to helping Canadians better understand, diagnose, and manage dry eye disease.

Bausch + Lomb Corporation recently conducted a survey with Instar Research on the difficulties associated with dry eye disease care in Canada. The survey was done between March and April 2026 on 481 Canadian adults who are using or have used a prescription treatment to treat their dry eye.

"Dry eye disease becomes increasingly common as we age, but it should never be dismissed as simply a normal part of aging" says Dr. Francois Piuze, creator of Quebec's Dry Eye Symposium. "Dry eye disease can have a meaningful impact on comfort, quality of life and daily activities. Early recognition and a conversation with an eye care professional can help patients understand the cause of their symptoms and find treatment options tailored to their specific condition."

With an estimated 21% of Canadians living with dry eye², the survey findings point to an important gap between patient needs and current care pathways:

- Patients typically see **two or more healthcare professionals before diagnosis**, revealing that dry eye diagnosis rarely happens at the first point of care.
- Patients are looking for faster escalation to prescription from over-the-counter lubricants. **4 in 5 patients** wish they had started prescription treatment sooner.
- **Nearly half** of patients surveyed over age 56 were **unaware that prescription treatments exist**, displaying significant gaps in patient education.
- Over **70% of dry eye disease sufferers** consider it essential to **treat inflammation**, highlighting the importance of managing the underlying cause of the disease.

Dr. Evelyn Lo, past president of BC Doctors of Optometry, reflects on the significance of the survey findings. "In clinical practice, I see how dry eye disease can affect not only comfort, but also vision, daily function and quality of life. These findings reinforce the importance of

earlier diagnosis, clearer patient education, and timely escalation beyond over-the-counter lubricants when prescription treatment is clinically appropriate, particularly when inflammation contributes to the disease."

The Canadian State of Dry Eye Survey underscores an opportunity to improve awareness, diagnosis, and access to effective treatment options for individuals with symptoms of dry eye.

Older patients often face obstacles in insurance coverage, making it more difficult to access the treatments they need. Through patient support programs and reimbursement solutions, Bausch + Lomb is working to remove these barriers so that more people can see better, live better, and maintain their independence.

About Dry Eye

As we age, numerous factors such as lifestyle, medications, hormonal changes, environment and underlying health conditions can affect eye comfort. Dry eye disease can be caused by the eyes producing insufficient or poor-quality tears that evaporate too quickly³. This leads to symptoms such as dryness, irritation, burning and blurred vision. Growing evidence suggests that inflammation plays an important role in the development and progression of dry eye disease⁴. Prescription drugs, dietary supplements, and over-the-counter eye drops are some of the choices available for treating symptoms³.

About Bausch + Lomb

Bausch + Lomb Corporation is a leading global eye health company dedicated to helping people see better to live better. For nearly two centuries we've evolved with the changing needs of patients and customers, and our commitment to innovation and improving the standard of care in eye health has never been stronger. From contact lenses to prescription products, over-the-counter options, surgical devices and more, we're turning bold ideas into better outcomes through passion, perseverance and purpose.

References

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