Re-inventing Hybrids
Kenneth Daniels, O.D., F.A.A.O., of Hopewell Eye Associates, Hopewell, NJ, moderated a panel discussion before a crowd of more than 100 practitioners at the recent 2010 American Academy of Optometry meeting held in San Francisco.

Dr. Daniels described the Duette lens as “totally new technology designed for normal corneas. The design is incredibly easy to fit.” -Dr. Daniels

Another panel member, Michael Lipson, O.D., F.A.A.O, and assistant professor at the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, said that he sees a high number of unique corneas, including keratoconic and post-corneal graphs. “In the past, when...
we reached for hybrid lenses it was for those patients who hadn’t been able to wear other lenses. With the Duette lens, I don’t save this hybrid for problem patients, but rather use it as a lens of first choice. When I present patients with options, I talk visual acuity, comfort and cost. The Duette lens addresses all of these issues unbelievably well.”

“Easier to fit than a soft toric lens”

When it comes to fitting astigmatic patients, Duette is approved for the correction of up to 6.00D of corneal astigmatism and follows very closely standard RGP fitting principles to greatly reduce chair time and streamline the process for both the practice and the patient.

Dr. Daniels explained, “With a reverse geometry skirt curve design and a hydro-dynamic effect, Duette never sits on the cornea. You will fit it more like a regular RGP. All you do is take the standard manual K reading and use the provided nomogram to select the base curve. Just place the lens on the eye with standard fluorescein and evaluate to select the skirt curve. When the proper lens is selected, the lens is rotationally stable with good movement throughout the day. The learning curve with Duette is incredibly fast. You’ll know what you’re doing with the first or second patient.”

Dr. Lipson added: “With Duette, you are back to more familiar ground. You simply look at the flat K readings and select the correct lens. Most of the time, you’ll be right with the first lens you select. Follow the fitting guide and listen to the patient and you’ll learn quickly. You can judge the fit by what your patients tell you, whether you are or aren’t using fluorescein. What you get is smooth alignments, little bearing in the periphery and good movement.”

Amy Nau, O.D., F.A.A.O., Director of Optometric and Low Vision Services at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Eye Center, described the Duette lens: “Duette is as comfortable as a soft lens and easier to fit than a soft toric lens. You don’t have to worry about axis or cross-cylinder calculations. Removal is not an issue and chair time is fast. With the Duette lens, you get the WOW effect from patients.”

Lens of First Choice

Dr. Lipson stated that Duette should be considered for any normal cornea patient such as mild astigmats, toric wearers or RGP wearers. “Some of you are thinking ‘If I get this lens, where am I going to start? Who is a good candidate for this lens?’ If you have a patient who is wearing soft lenses with even .50D of cylinder, they are under corrected with a spherical lens. Toric lenses can rotate even if you are getting 20/20 acuity. Anybody who is wearing a toric lens that tries Duette will say they see clearer.”

“I am excited about the lens because I have had such good results with it. This is new technology, it works beautifully and I think it is a practice builder because patients leave the office with a new lens that gives them superior vision and comfort and they tell other people. I lead with Duette now when discussing lens options with patients.”

Audience Comments and Questions

The panel’s audience participation yielded comments about the technology and how Duette will change the modern contact lens practice, to which the panelists responded. Contact lens clinician icon James Boucher, O.D., F.A.A.O., Laramie, WY, who has been involved with hybrid contact lens technology since the early 1980s, described the Duette lens as a “quantum leap.” He stated, “SynergEyes really made a huge leap in getting movement and adequate tear exchange with this new design.”

“Easier to fit than a soft toric lens”

Dr. Lipson who reported he has 60 patients wearing Duette lenses, said his patients had
not reported problems with comfort. “The Duette lens is not sitting on the cornea which contributes to the comfort of the lens.” He added, “…when I see patients back at follow-up they talk about the great vision and comfort. However there is one thing I am hearing that I didn’t expect. Patients will say that they have less dry eye wearing Duette, than they did with their soft lenses.”

When an audience member asked about flexure and fitting both against and with-the-rule patients, Paul Kusy, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O., SynergEyes Director of Clinical Research advised, “Because the rigid lens is not sitting on the cornea, Duette really doesn’t care what orientation the astigmatism is. It really doesn’t matter if it is with-the-rule or against-the-rule because the rigid center is not touching the eye. It is sitting on the soft skirt and you don’t have decentration as you may with a standard RGP. If you look at the fit, you can’t tell if it is with-the-rule or against-the-rule, it really makes no difference.”

Re-defines state-of-the-art
Duette represents a significant advancement in the contact lens industry and gives eye care professionals an innovative product that delivers an unprecedented combination of visual acuity and comfort to a broad range of patients.

That’s what a game-changer does — re-defines state-of-the art. And that is what Duette does in contact lenses. So when you think high-tech in contact lens technology, think SynergEyes and its game-changer, the Duette lens.