Introduction

Dry eye is a term commonly used to describe a number of conditions of the ocular surface characterized by a tear film disorder which results from a tear film deficiency or evaporative abnormality. The ocular surface is continuously exposed to various stimuli, which may cause discomfort or irritation, such as wind, dust, and other irritants. The conjunctival epithelium provides a barrier against these stimuli, and any disturbance of this barrier can lead to discomfort. Therefore, it is important to understand the mechanisms of tear film function and the factors that affect it in order to manage and treat dry eye symptoms effectively.

Methods

The predominant treatment strategy for dry eye has been to augment tears. Tear supplements typically provide only short-term relief because of brief retention time on the ocular surface. This protection may be enhanced with new technologies that provide longer retention time.

Background

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