

Novel Device Facilitates Painless Sampling from the Eye

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Source: Opia

Opia Technologies has designed a device that harvests sample cells from the eye surface to diagnose ocular surface pathologies such as dry eye, allergy and infections. The French company has won the [Pharmapack](#) Award in the category medical device for diagnostics.

Until now, it was challenging for ophthalmologists to diagnose dry eye because the available methods to acquire samples for biomolecular testing produced very uneven results. According to Pierre Roy, CEO of Opia, the conventional approach was not reliable in 20 to 40% of cases and often did not provide enough sample material.

The new device, however, takes cell samples from the surface of the eye, just before they are ejected into the tear film. Because the cells stick to the device, there is no need for scratching, which makes it painless for the patient. Clinical studies revealed that the method is about twice as fast as the conventional procedure, collecting two to five times more cells, according to Roy.

The start-up OPIA was founded in 2010 within the Vision Institute of Paris. The manufacture of the device, including eleven components, eight of which are high-precision, injection-molded parts, is very complex. Therefore, Opia cooperates with the moulding and plastic injection specialist JBT group.

-- By [Thomas Klein](#), Managing Editor, EMDT

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