

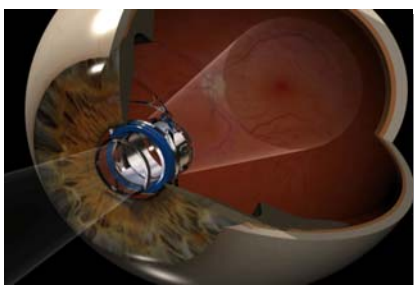


VisionCare Backgrounder

VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies, Inc. is a privately-held medical device company engaged in developing, manufacturing, and marketing innovative visual prosthetic devices for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of irreversible blindness in developed countries. The company's focus is to provide people with severe vision disorders innovative solutions that restore sight and improve everyday life. Its initial product - a proprietary, first-of-kind medical device for advanced forms of AMD (Implantable Miniature Telescope, IMT™ by Dr. Isaac Lipshitz) - has been granted a CE Mark in Europe and is under regulatory review by the U.S. FDA.

Over 20 million people in developed countries are estimated to have some form of AMD. The disease affects the central retina, or macula, which is responsible for detailed central vision that controls important functional visual activities such as reading, recognizing faces, and watching television. The number of people affected by AMD is expected to double by the year 2030. According to the National Eye Institute, vision-impairing advanced forms of AMD ('wet' and advanced 'dry' AMD) affect approximately 2 million people in the U.S., and there are an additional 7 million individuals at risk of progressing to advanced AMD. Affected individuals are generally over 65 years of age. The high prevalence of AMD, in conjunction with limited treatment options, has created a major public health concern and an intense need for treatments that increase function and independence in this patient population.

There are several approved wet AMD drug therapies that help slow or arrest wet AMD progression, but none has represented a cure for the disease or completely eliminated vision loss. Dry AMD has no available treatments. Therefore, depending on how a patient's AMD progresses, visual impairment eventually occurs. Ultimately, severe and untreatable vision loss affects both eyes in the End-Stage form of AMD, creating a central blind spot that impairs the patient's ability to read, provide care for him/herself or others, or even recognize family and friends. The company's implantable telescope is designed to improve outcomes by providing patients with End-Stage AMD the ability to regain central vision.



Implantable Telescope Technology

The implantable telescope, about the size of a pea, is comprised of quartz glass micro-optics that render an enlarged central vision image onto the healthy retinal areas surrounding the degenerated macula. The device is implanted behind the iris (colored-portion) in one eye during an outpatient surgical procedure. This essentially converts the eye into a telephoto system that reduces the impact of the blind spot by a factor of the telescope's magnification (nominal 3X) within a relatively wide field of view. Additionally, more central field visual information is available to viable retina photoreceptors. The new central vision image allows patients to recognize images that were previously difficult or impossible to see (e.g., see facial features, read street signs, watch TV).

Over 260 of the company's implantable telescopes have been used in clinical trials that have generated extensive long-term safety and efficacy data. The pivotal IMT002 clinical trial, conducted across 28 leading U.S. ophthalmic centers, demonstrated the majority of patients gained at least 3 lines of visual acuity on the study eye chart and clinically meaningful quality-of-life improvements on the National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire. Eight peer-reviewed publications discussing the clinical and scientific data have appeared in top-tier ophthalmic journals.

VisionCare is headquartered in Saratoga, CA, with research facilities in Petah Tikva, Israel.
www.visioncareinc.net