



Although we are not allowed to prescribe, diagnose, or determine the refractive power of the eye, as front-line ECPs (Eye-Care Professionals) we must field all kinds of eye and vision-related questions.

Most recently, those questions are all about Allergan's Vuity eye drops. I asked my optometrist to write me a prescription so I could try it for myself, which she was happy to do. After dropping the Rx off at the pharmacist, 24 hours and \$79 dollars later, I had my 2.5 ml bottle - enough for about one month if I used one drop in each eye, once a day, as suggested.

Vuity is the only FDA-approved eyedrop to "treat" presbyopia. It is a 1.25% solution of pilocarpine hydrochloride. Users are to place one drop in each eye once a day. If more than one topical eyedrop is being used, wait at least five minutes in between applications. Contact lens wearers should remove their contacts before administering the drops and wait at least 10 minutes before reinserting them.



There are warnings not to use while driving at night or performing "other hazardous activities in poor-light conditions." Users may also experience "temporary problems when changing focus between near and distance objects." Common side effects include headache and eye redness.

Allergan's website claims that Vuity will "improve the ability to see up close while maintaining distance vision," but that it is "not intended to replace other options for presbyopia." It boasts a

"three-line gain at near, while losing only one line of distance vision." The effect, which takes about 15 minutes to achieve, should last about six hours.

What Did I Experience?

My spectacle Rx is:

O.D. +1.00 -0.50 x 090

O.S. +0.50 -0.50 x 067; .50D prism base up

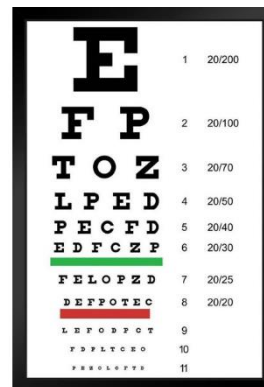
O.U. +2.50 add

Most of the day (even driving) I don't wear my glasses, but of course I need them for any work at intermediate and near distances.

Before inserting the drops, with my uncorrected eyes I could see only J7 on the reading card.

I experienced a slight stinging when inserting the drops. No big deal.

At no time did I experience any of the other potential side effects, and after 20 minutes I could easily see J3 on the reading card, and with a bit of a strain, most of J2. Not bad! I never experienced any deterioration of distance vision. Problem was, after only a couple hours I could only make out J5 on the reading card, and after three hours, I was back to only being able to make out J7. My wife, Andrea, had a similar experience, although her reading acuity was never helped as much as mine.



My sense is the effect would be longer lasting and probably be even more effective visually if the user had no distance correction and was more of an emerging presbyope (they say it works best for those age 40-55) with add powers in the +1.00 to +1.75 range.

I hope this information helps you more professionally and effectively field any questions you may be asked about Vuity. TV, radio and Internet commercials for it are everywhere. Remember, you are only passing on information to your patients that is readily available to the public at the website (www.vuity.com), and the experiences of one of your colleagues who tried it. I would end every conversation with the advice to consult their optometrist or ophthalmologist, reminding them that an eye exam every year or two is a good idea.

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