

# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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## CONTACT LENS WEARER AT RISK OF CORNEAL BLINDNESS FROM AMOEBA

The first case of Acanthamoeba Keratitis in the Territories has just been diagnosed at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The patient is a thirty-one year old female who has been wearing soft contact lens for ten years. Her symptoms of redness, irritation, foreign body sensation, photophobia, episodic but severe eye pain started about four months ago. Vision in the problematic eye has dropped to counting finger only.

According to the doctor in charge, Dr. Dennis Lam, Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the Department of Surgery, Chinese University of Hong Kong: Acanthamoeba Keratitis is an uncommon but very serious form of corneal ulcer affecting mainly contact lens wearers. It is caused by a free living amoeba, which could be found in home make saline for rinsing contact lens, tap water and even air. Diagnosis is difficult to make and treatment is not always effective. Recurrence of the condition and significant ocular morbidity are common. As this condition is associated with contact lens wear, proper handling of contact lens is the most important preventive measure. Dr. Lam also commented that this case probably reflected just only the tip of the iceberg because of the difficulties involved in making the diagnosis.

Professor Arthur K.C. Li, Dean and Chairman of Surgery of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong added that it is most to bring this condition to the attention of contact lens wearers as the danger of corneal damage can be prevented.

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