

■ **A formulation of 0.2% olopatadine is more effective than 0.05% epinastine for preventing ocular itching and redness** at the onset of allergic conjunctivitis, according to researchers from the US. They evaluated data for 92 subjects who were randomised to one of four treatment groups: 0.2% olopatadine in one eye and 0.05% epinastine in the contralateral eye (n = 28), 0.2% olopatadine and placebo (27), 0.05% epinastine and placebo (28), and placebo in both eyes; subjects then received an allergen challenge to determine onset of action.* Olopatadine was associated with significantly lower mean ocular itching scores than epinastine at 5 and 7 minutes. Moreover, olopatadine was associated with significantly lower mean redness scores than epinastine at all time points. Furthermore, subject-rated comfort was significantly greater for olopatadine than for epinastine at 1 minute after administration.

* This study was supported by Alcon Laboratories.

Mah FS, et al. Efficacy and comfort of olopatadine 0.2% versus epinastine 0.05% ophthalmic solution for treating itching and redness induced by conjunctival allergen challenge. *Current Medical Research and Opinion* 23: 1445-1452, No. 6, Jun 2007 801090899