

Commentary



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This article refers to a communication from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) concerning cases of ocular surface complications associated with the use of eye drops and other topical ophthalmic preparations containing phosphate buffers among their excipients. The reported manifestations include superficial band keratopathy as well as deeper corneal calcification.

The role of preservatives in ocular surface toxicity has been discussed for many years, whereas the contribution of phosphate buffers to these clinical scenarios has gained attention more recently. Therefore, it appears reasonable to verify the presence of phosphates in ophthalmic products by reviewing the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). Moreover, phosphate concentration may represent an additional factor influencing the risk of adverse ocular surface effects.