Manufacturing process of Alcon®’s AIR OPTIX® COLORS contact lenses allows pigmentation to remain encapsulated while maintaining high oxygen transmissibility

- New data on AIR OPTIX® COLORS to be presented during the 2015 Annual Conference of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), May 29-31, in Liverpool, UK
- The results indicate the manufacturing process involved in the manufacturing of AIR OPTIX® COLORS lenses allows the colour pigment to remain encapsulated in the contact lens
- Additional findings confirm the pigment particles within the lenses do not reduce the oxygen transmissibility

Liverpool, 30th May, 2015 – Alcon®, the global leader in eye care and a second largest division of Novartis®, announced the presentation of a study highlighting the manufacturing methodology used to produce AIR OPTIX® COLORS contact lenses at the 2015 Annual Conference of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), May 29th-31st, in Liverpool, UK. The study showed the AIR OPTIX® COLORS lenses maintain clinically beneficial high oxygen transmissibility while fully encapsulating the pigment particles within the lens.

“This study showed that a three-step manufacturing process including full polymer encapsulation of the pigment as well as treatment of the entire lens with plasma not only keeps the colour pigment in AIR OPTIX® COLORS intact inside the contact lens, but also confirms that the added pigment does not affect the total amount of oxygen reaching the eye,” said lead investigator Karen Sentell, Director of Early Development Analytics for Alcon® R&D.

Study Details:

- X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy was used to evaluate areas of the lens identified by Scanning Electron Microscopy to contain pigment, in order to analyze for the presence of iron, titanium, and copper that are unique to the pigments used in AIR OPTIX® lenses. No metals were detected at a depth of up to 100 nm depth profiling. A trace amount of iron, but not titanium or copper, was detected only after 500 nm depth profiling.
- The oxygen permeability, Dk, through the pigmented portions of the lens was within 94 - 100% of Dk in regions without pigment.

References
About AIR OPTIX® COLORS contact lenses

Important information for AIR OPTIX® COLORS (lotrafilcon B) contact lenses: for daily wear only for near/far-sightedness and to change eye colour. In many markets, contact lenses are indicated, even if worn only for cosmetic reasons, as medical devices that may only be worn under the direction and supervision of an eye care professional. Ask your eye care professional for complete wear, care, and safety information.

About Alcon®

Alcon®, the global leader in eye care, provides innovative products that enhance quality of life by helping people worldwide see better. Alcon®’s three businesses, Surgical, Pharmaceutical and Vision Care, offer the widest spectrum of eye care products in the world. Alcon® is the second largest division of the Novartis Group, with pro-forma sales of USD 10.8 billion in 2014.

Headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, USA, Alcon has more than 25,000 employees worldwide, operations in 75 countries and products available in 180 markets.

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Media Contacts

Irina Ferluga  
Head of Communications  
Europe, Middle East & Africa  
Tel: +41 5 8911 2044  
Mob: +41 7 9824 1121  
irina.ferluga@alcon.com

Saoyuth Nidh  
Alcon Communications  
Europe, Middle East & Africa  
Tel: +41 58 911 21 59  
Mob: +41 79 969 77 57  
saoyuth.nidh@alcon.com