**Dry eye** is a multifactorial disease of the tears and ocular surface that results in symptoms of discomfort, visual disturbance, and tear film instability with potential damage to the ocular surface. It is accompanied by increased osmolarity of the tear film and inflammation of the ocular surface.

**Osmolarity**

In fact, dry eye disease occurs when your eyes do not produce enough tears or produce poor quality tears. That’s why it’s essential you get your tears analyzed by your eye doctor. Only an eye doctor can properly diagnose your problem and treat it appropriately.

Your eye doctor will take a sample of tears from each eye and use the TearLab device to measure osmolarity (the saltiness of your tears). As osmolarity in your tears increase ocular surface cells become damaged. Your doctor will need an amount of tear fluid no larger than the period at the end of this sentence.

**Symptoms**

Many people mistake the dry eye symptoms for allergies, climatic conditions or just “eyestrain”. While all of these may aggravate dry eye symptoms, they are not the cause.

Symptoms may include:

- Burning
- Grittiness
- Soreness
- Red eyes
- Photophobia/Sensitivity to light
- Foreign Body Sensation

**The TearLab Osmolarity System** is intended to measure the osmolarity of human tears to aid in the diagnosis of dry eye disease in patients suspected of having dry eye disease, in conjunction with other methods of clinical evaluation.

**How it works**

The TearLab Osmolarity Test Card, in conjunction with the TearLab Osmolarity System, provides a quick and simple method for determining tear osmolarity using nanoliter (nL) volumes of tear fluid collected directly from the eyelid margin. The Test Card is held by the Osmolarity Test Pen, for safe collection. The TearLab Osmolarity Test utilizes a temperature-corrected impedance measurement to provide an indirect assessment of osmolarity. After applying a lot-specific calibration curve, osmolarity is calculated and displayed as a quantitative numerical value.