

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market By Product (Soft Lens, Rigid Lens), By Application (Corneal Surgery/Disorders, Post Ocular Surgery, Drug Delivery), By Distribution Channel (Retail Stores, Hospitals & Clinics, Online), By Region, Competition, Forecast & Opportunities, 2020-2030F

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Abstracts

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market was valued at USD 281.31 Million in 2024 and is anticipated to project impressive growth in the forecast period with a CAGR of 7.54% through 2030. The Japan therapeutic contact lenses market is driven by several key factors. An increasing prevalence of ocular disorders such as keratoconus, dry eye syndrome, and corneal irregularities necessitates therapeutic solutions that can provide both relief and visual correction. Advancements in contact lens materials and designs, including the development of hybrid and scleral lenses, offer improved comfort and efficacy for patients with challenging eye conditions. A growing aging population in Japan, prone to age-related eye diseases, fuels demand for therapeutic lenses that enhance visual acuity and comfort. Strong collaborations between healthcare providers, researchers, and industry players promote innovation and expand the range of therapeutic contact lens options available in the market, ensuring that patients have access to tailored solutions that address their specific eye health needs.

Key Market Drivers

Prevalence of Ocular Disorders

The Japan therapeutic contact lenses market is significantly influenced by the escalating incidence of ocular disorders, prominently including conditions like

keratoconus, dry eye syndrome, and various forms of corneal irregularities. These disorders necessitate specialized therapeutic contact lenses that not only correct visual impairments but also deliver therapeutic benefits tailored to the specific needs of patients. With the aging population in Japan and the increasing prevalence of digital device usage contributing to dry eye syndrome and myopia, there is a heightened awareness among both patients and healthcare providers regarding the importance of early diagnosis and effective management of these conditions.

As diagnostic technologies advance, enabling more accurate and timely identification of ocular disorders, the demand for advanced therapeutic contact lens solutions continues to grow. These lenses are designed to provide optimal visual correction while addressing underlying therapeutic needs such as moisture retention, corneal reshaping, or protection from environmental irritants. The evolving landscape of ophthalmic care in Japan emphasizes the integration of innovative materials and designs in contact lenses, supporting enhanced comfort, prolonged wearability, and improved treatment outcomes for patients affected by ocular disorders. This growing demand for specialized therapeutic contact lenses reflects a broader trend towards personalized healthcare solutions that cater to specific patient conditions, thereby driving sustained growth in the Japanese market.

Technological Advancements

Technological advancements in contact lens materials, designs, and manufacturing processes are pivotal drivers of the Japan therapeutic contact lenses market. Innovations such as the development of silicone hydrogel materials have revolutionized contact lenses by enhancing oxygen permeability, thereby reducing the risk of ocular complications such as dryness and discomfort. These materials allow for extended wear times and increased comfort, catering to the diverse needs of patients with chronic eye conditions.

The integration of advanced imaging and mapping technologies has enabled the creation of custom-made therapeutic contact lenses. These lenses are precisely tailored to the unique topography of each patient's cornea, ensuring optimal fit and alignment. Such customization not only enhances visual acuity but also improves therapeutic outcomes by addressing specific irregularities or refractive errors more effectively than traditional lenses. Precision manufacturing techniques have advanced the durability and reliability of therapeutic contact lenses. Enhanced manufacturing processes ensure consistent quality and performance, meeting stringent regulatory standards and patient expectations. These advancements have expanded the scope of conditions that can be

effectively managed with contact lenses, ranging from complex corneal irregularities to progressive myopia management.

Aging Population

Japan's aging population stands as a pivotal driver propelling growth within the therapeutic contact lenses market. The country's demographic landscape features a notable increase in elderly individuals who are particularly vulnerable to age-related ocular ailments like presbyopia and dry eye syndrome. These conditions necessitate specialized therapeutic contact lenses capable of addressing the specific needs of older adults. Presbyopia, a common age-related condition resulting in difficulty focusing on nearby objects, necessitates corrective lenses that provide clear vision at multiple distances. Therapeutic contact lenses designed for presbyopia correction integrate advanced optical technologies to offer seamless transition between near, intermediate, and distant vision, thereby enhancing daily functionality and quality of life for aging individuals.

Dry eye syndrome, prevalent among seniors due to reduced tear production or poor tear quality, requires therapeutic lenses with enhanced moisture retention properties. These lenses are designed to maintain ocular hydration and protect the cornea from irritation caused by environmental factors or prolonged digital device use, common practices among older adults. Therapeutic contact lenses prioritizing comfort are crucial for elderly individuals, ensuring prolonged wearability without discomfort or irritation. Innovations in lens materials and designs cater to the unique needs of aging eyes, promoting extended wear times and minimizing the risk of adverse reactions.

Increasing Consumer Awareness and Education

The increasing consumer awareness regarding the advantages of therapeutic contact lenses in addressing a spectrum of eye conditions is a significant driver of market growth in Japan. This heightened awareness is fueled by comprehensive educational campaigns, advancements in digital communication platforms, and improved accessibility to information related to eye health. Educational initiatives play a crucial role in informing the public about the benefits of therapeutic contact lenses. Healthcare providers, ophthalmic societies, and contact lens manufacturers collaborate to disseminate information through various channels, including seminars, workshops, and online resources. These efforts aim to educate consumers about the role of therapeutic lenses in managing conditions such as keratoconus, dry eye syndrome, and post-surgical vision correction.

Advancements in digital communication have further amplified outreach efforts, enabling healthcare providers and manufacturers to engage directly with patients through websites, social media platforms, and mobile applications. This digital presence facilitates real-time interaction, providing patients with up-to-date information on new products, treatment options, and patient testimonials, thereby empowering them to make informed decisions about their eye care. The increased accessibility to information allows patients to proactively seek treatment for ocular disorders, including myopia control and management after surgical procedures. As patients become more knowledgeable about their eye health, they are increasingly opting for therapeutic contact lenses that not only provide precise vision correction but also offer therapeutic benefits such as enhanced comfort, moisture retention, and UV protection.

Key Market Challenges

Regulatory Compliance and Approval Processes

The regulatory environment in Japan poses a substantial hurdle for manufacturers aiming to bring new therapeutic contact lenses to market. Oversight by authorities like the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) demands adherence to rigorous testing protocols and stringent quality standards. Manufacturers must conduct comprehensive clinical trials to demonstrate the safety, efficacy, and quality of their products before obtaining regulatory approval. This process involves meticulous documentation and adherence to specific guidelines, which can be time-consuming and resource-intensive.

Delays in regulatory approval can significantly impact product launches and market entry strategies. Manufacturers may face prolonged review periods, necessitating additional investments in research and development, clinical studies, and regulatory compliance efforts. Such delays not only strain financial resources but also hinder timely access to innovative therapeutic solutions for patients suffering from ocular conditions. Navigating Japan's regulatory framework requires a thorough understanding of local laws, guidelines, and procedural requirements. Language barriers and differences in regulatory interpretations further complicate the approval process for international manufacturers seeking to enter the Japanese market. Strategic planning and collaboration with local regulatory consultants and legal advisors are essential to navigate these complexities effectively.

Cost and Affordability

The cost associated with therapeutic contact lenses, especially those designed for complex conditions such as keratoconus or myopia control, presents a significant barrier for many patients in Japan. These advanced designs often incorporate specialized materials and technologies that enhance their therapeutic efficacy and durability, but also contribute to higher production costs. As a result, the retail prices of these lenses can be prohibitive, placing them beyond the financial reach of some individuals, despite their potential to provide substantial visual and therapeutic benefits. In April 2021, Menicon announced a global collaboration with Johnson & Johnson Vision to advance therapeutic contact lens-related products and services aimed at managing the progression of myopia in children.

Insurance coverage for therapeutic contact lenses varies widely in Japan, further complicating accessibility for patients. While some insurance policies may partially cover the cost of basic lenses, coverage for specialized designs tailored for specific conditions like keratoconus or multifocal lenses for myopia control may be limited or absent. This disparity in coverage adds to the financial burden on patients who require these specialized treatments, potentially delaying or preventing access to optimal care. Manufacturers and healthcare providers confront a delicate balance between making therapeutic contact lenses affordable and maintaining high standards of quality and technological advancement. The need to recover research and development costs, ensure product safety, and comply with regulatory requirements contributes to the pricing structure of therapeutic lenses. However, these factors can also impact market penetration and patient adoption rates, particularly when cost becomes a primary consideration for individuals making healthcare decisions.

Key Market Trends

Corporate Initiatives and Partnerships

Collaborations among multinational corporations, local manufacturers, healthcare providers, and academic institutions are instrumental in driving the expansion of the Japan therapeutic contact lenses market. These partnerships foster synergies that accelerate research and development efforts aimed at introducing innovative contact lens solutions uniquely suited to meet the specific needs of Japanese patients. Multinational corporations bring global expertise in contact lens technology and manufacturing capabilities, while local manufacturers contribute deep insights into the domestic market and regulatory landscape. Together, they collaborate on designing advanced therapeutic lenses that integrate cutting-edge materials, enhanced designs

for comfort, and specialized functionalities such as UV protection or moisture retention.

Healthcare providers play a pivotal role by providing clinical insights and feedback based on patient needs and treatment outcomes. Academic institutions contribute through scientific research and clinical trials that validate the efficacy and safety of new contact lens technologies. These collaborations ensure that therapeutic lenses meet rigorous quality standards and regulatory requirements, instilling confidence among healthcare professionals and patients alike. Corporate initiatives focused on expanding distribution networks are crucial in improving the accessibility of therapeutic contact lenses across Japan. By establishing partnerships with regional distributors and eye care professionals, manufacturers enhance product availability in diverse healthcare settings, including hospitals, ophthalmic clinics, and optical retail outlets. This strategic expansion facilitates easier access to specialized lenses for patients seeking treatment for various ocular conditions.

Growing Focus on Myopia Management

The rising prevalence of myopia among children and young adults in Japan has emerged as a significant catalyst for heightened interest in myopia management strategies, particularly through the use of therapeutic contact lenses. Myopia, commonly known as nearsightedness, poses a growing concern due to its potential to progress and lead to more severe vision impairments if left unmanaged. Based on the study titled, "Current Prevalence of Myopia and Association of Myopia with Environmental Factors Among Schoolchildren in Japan", study revealed elevated prevalence rates of myopia among students in Tokyo, with 76.5% in elementary school and 94.9% in junior high school students affected. There were notably high rates of high myopia, particularly the 15.2% prevalence rate based on axial length measurement in junior high school students. While acknowledging that using noncycloplegic autorefraction with a cutoff of ≥ 0.50 D might potentially overestimate results, these findings indicate a substantial prevalence of myopia among elementary and junior high school students in Asia.

In response to this trend, specialized contact lenses tailored for myopia control have garnered increasing attention. Orthokeratology (ortho-k) lenses, for instance, are designed to be worn overnight to reshape the cornea temporarily, thereby correcting refractive errors and reducing myopia progression over time. These lenses offer a non-surgical alternative to traditional methods such as eyeglasses or refractive surgery, appealing to parents and young individuals seeking effective long-term solutions for myopia management.

Segmental Insights

Product Insights

Based on the Product, soft lenses currently dominate over rigid lenses in terms of popularity and adoption. Soft lenses are widely favored for their superior comfort and ease of adaptation, making them a preferred choice for patients requiring therapeutic treatments such as myopia control, astigmatism correction, and management of dry eye syndrome. Soft contact lenses are made from flexible, water-absorbing materials such as hydrogels or silicone hydrogels. These materials allow for high oxygen permeability, ensuring adequate oxygen flow to the cornea and maintaining ocular health during extended wear. This attribute is particularly beneficial for patients with dry eye syndrome, as soft lenses help retain moisture on the ocular surface, alleviating discomfort and reducing symptoms.

The flexibility and softness of these lenses enhance comfort, making them suitable for patients of all ages, including children and elderly individuals. Soft lenses conform to the curvature of the eye, providing a snug fit that minimizes lens movement and irritation, thereby enhancing overall wearer satisfaction and compliance with prescribed treatments. In addition to comfort, soft lenses offer versatility in design and application. They are available in various types, including daily disposables, bi-weekly or monthly replacement lenses, and specialized designs such as toric lenses for astigmatism correction and multifocal lenses for presbyopia management. This diversity allows healthcare providers to customize treatment plans according to individual patient needs, enhancing the efficacy of therapeutic interventions.

Application Insights

Based on Application, corneal surgery and disorders hold significant prominence. Therapeutic contact lenses designed specifically for corneal conditions play a crucial role in post-operative care and management of disorders such as keratoconus, corneal dystrophies, and corneal scars. These lenses provide both visual correction and therapeutic benefits, promoting healing, reducing discomfort, and improving visual outcomes for patients undergoing corneal surgeries or experiencing corneal irregularities.

For individuals with keratoconus, a progressive condition characterized by thinning and bulging of the cornea, specialty contact lenses like scleral lenses or hybrid lenses are often prescribed. These lenses help to reshape the corneal surface, providing stable

vision by masking irregularities and improving visual acuity. They create a tear-filled vault over the cornea, protecting sensitive tissues and enhancing comfort, which is crucial for patients with advanced stages of the disease. Post-ocular surgery, therapeutic contact lenses are employed to facilitate recovery and support healing processes. After procedures such as corneal transplant or refractive surgery (e.g., LASIK), contact lenses aid in stabilizing the cornea, minimizing irregularities, and reducing the risk of complications like infections or epithelial ingrowth. Specialty lenses designed for post-surgical use provide a protective barrier, promote epithelial healing, and optimize visual outcomes during the critical recovery phase.

Regional Insights

Kanto stands out as the dominant market for therapeutic contact lenses. Kanto, encompassing Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures, holds a significant share of Japan's population and economic activity. Tokyo, as the capital city and a major hub for healthcare services and technological innovation, drives substantial demand for advanced medical treatments, including therapeutic contact lenses. The region's dense population and high concentration of healthcare facilities contribute to a robust market ecosystem that supports the adoption and distribution of specialized eye care products.

Kanto hosts numerous academic and research institutions, collaborating closely with healthcare providers and manufacturers to drive innovation in ophthalmic technologies. This collaborative environment fosters the development of cutting-edge contact lens solutions tailored to meet the diverse needs of patients with ocular conditions such as myopia, astigmatism, and presbyopia. Tokyo's status as a global financial center enhances market dynamics by attracting multinational corporations and fostering partnerships between local and international stakeholders. These partnerships facilitate the introduction of innovative therapeutic contact lenses to address evolving patient preferences and technological advancements.

Key Market Players

Menicon Co., Ltd.

SEED Co., Ltd.

Toray Industries, Inc.

Universal View Co., Ltd.

Alcon Japan Ltd.

Report Scope:

In this report, the Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market, By Product:

Soft Lens

Rigid Lens

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market, By Application:

Corneal Surgery/Disorders

Post Ocular Surgery

Drug Delivery

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market, By Distribution Channel:

Retail Stores

Hospitals & Clinics

Online

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market, By Region:

Hokkaido

Tohoku

Kanto

Chubu

Kansai

Chugoku

Shikoku

Kyushu

Competitive Landscape

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market.

Available Customizations:

Japan Therapeutic Contact Lenses Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to a company's specific needs. The following customization options are available for the report:

Company Information

Detailed analysis and profiling of additional market players (up to five).

Contents

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Market Definition
- 1.2. Scope of the Market
 - 1.2.1. Markets Covered
 - 1.2.2. Years Considered for Study
 - 1.2.3. Key Market Segmentations

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. Objective of the Study
- 2.2. Baseline Methodology
- 2.3. Key Industry Partners
- 2.4. Major Association and Secondary Sources
- 2.5. Forecasting Methodology
- 2.6. Data Triangulation & Validations
- 2.7. Assumptions and Limitations

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. Overview of the Market
- 3.2. Overview of Key Market Segmentations
- 3.3. Overview of Key Market Players
- 3.4. Overview of Key Regions/Countries
- 3.5. Overview of Market Drivers, Challenges, Trends

4. VOICE OF CUSTOMER

5. JAPAN THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

- 5.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 5.1.1. By Value
- 5.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 5.2.1. By Product (Soft Lens, Rigid Lens)
 - 5.2.2. By Application (Corneal Surgery/Disorders, Post Ocular Surgery, Drug Delivery)
 - 5.2.3. By Distribution Channel (Retail Stores, Hospitals & Clinics, Online)
 - 5.2.4. By Region

5.2.5. By Company (2024)

5.3. Market Map

6. HOKKAIDO THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

6.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.1.1. By Value

6.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.2.1. By Product

6.2.2. By Application

6.2.3. By Distribution Channel

7. TOHOKU THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

7.1. Market Size & Forecast

7.1.1. By Value

7.2. Market Share & Forecast

7.2.1. By Product

7.2.2. By Application

7.2.3. By Distribution Channel

8. KANTO THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

8.1. Market Size & Forecast

8.1.1. By Value

8.2. Market Share & Forecast

8.2.1. By Product

8.2.2. By Application

8.2.3. By Distribution Channel

9. CHUBU THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

9.1. Market Size & Forecast

9.1.1. By Value

9.2. Market Share & Forecast

9.2.1. By Product

9.2.2. By Application

9.2.3. By Distribution Channel

10. KANSAI THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

10.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.1.1. By Value

10.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.2.1. By Product

10.2.2. By Application

10.2.3. By Distribution Channel

11. CHUGOKU THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

11.1. Market Size & Forecast

11.1.1. By Value

11.2. Market Share & Forecast

11.2.1. By Product

11.2.2. By Application

11.2.3. By Distribution Channel

12. SHIKOKU THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

12.1. Market Size & Forecast

12.1.1. By Value

12.2. Market Share & Forecast

12.2.1. By Product

12.2.2. By Application

12.2.3. By Distribution Channel

13. KYUSHU THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET OUTLOOK

13.1. Market Size & Forecast

13.1.1. By Value

13.2. Market Share & Forecast

13.2.1. By Product

13.2.2. By Application

13.2.3. By Distribution Channel

14. MARKET DYNAMICS

14.1. Drivers

14.2. Challenges

15. MARKET TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS

15.1. Merger & Acquisition (If Any)

15.2. Product Launches (If Any)

15.3. Recent Developments

16. JAPAN THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES MARKET: SWOT ANALYSIS

17. PORTER'S FIVE FORCES ANALYSIS

17.1. Competition in the Industry

17.2. Potential of New Entrants

17.3. Power of Suppliers

17.4. Power of Customers

17.5. Threat of Substitute Products

18. COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

18.1. Menicon Co., Ltd.

18.1.1. Business Overview

18.1.2. Company Snapshot

18.1.3. Products & Services

18.1.4. Financials (As Reported)

18.1.5. Recent Developments

18.1.6. Key Personnel Details

18.1.7. SWOT Analysis

18.2. SEED Co., Ltd.

18.3. Toray Industries, Inc.

18.4. Universal View Co., Ltd.

18.5. Alcon Japan Ltd.

19. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

20. ABOUT US & DISCLAIMER

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