

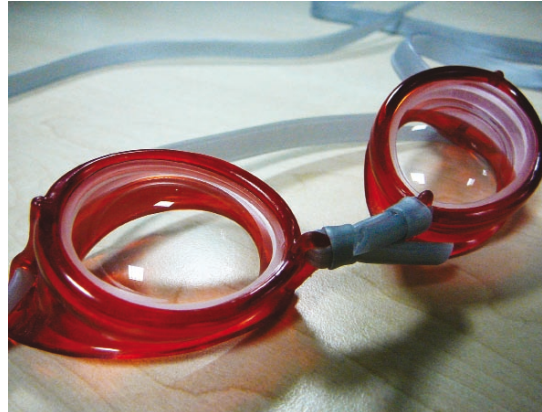
Swimming goggles for a myopic child

Bill Harvey reports on the case of a highly myopic child who wanted swimming goggles

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy has the spectacle prescription R -14.50DS L -13.50DS. He loves swimming but finds his uncorrected vision a nuisance. Furthermore, he and his mother have been told on several occasions that prescription swimming goggles would not be possible.

I looked into this further and found a couple of points of interest. Firstly, there do not appear to be many adequate swimming goggles aimed at this age group, even though one might argue that this is an age when children should be encouraged to accustom themselves with water. After some searching, Norville came up with a goggle – the Italian-made Sonia Sport. This is now discontinued so manufacturers out there take note.

Secondly, the glazing process for swimming goggles is somewhat complicated by the need for an adequate watertight seal to be



The Italian-made Sonia Sport was supplied by Norville

maintained between the bevel and the frame edge.

John Postill, of Norville's centre in Harrogate, explained further. 'The real problem is with plus lenses where the edge substance calculation is critical to ensure an adequate seal.' Commenting on the current power range available for swimming goggles, he continued:



'The quoted +6 to -10 power range is from our pricing catalogue. There are cases, such as people with behavioural and severe physical difficulties, where we have to cope with much higher prescriptions in goggle form.'

The patient went swimming last week and he and his mum are more than happy.

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