

Stylish therapeutic eyewear that offers proven relief for migraine and light sensitivity

# **A Problem**

The simple act of turning on a lamp or walking into a brightly lit store can cause pain for a person who is sensitive to everyday indoor or outdoor light. Few people know that this painful sensitivity to light, called photophobia, is associated with more than 50 different medical conditions, including epilepsy, traumatic brain injury and concussion, fibromyalgia, and others. However, the most common is migraine, which affects more than 38 million in the United States. In fact, light triggers migraine attacks or causes photophobia in as many as 90% of people with migraine.

Specific wavelengths of blue-green light can be especially harmful to individuals with migraine and other conditions, according to research. Fluorescent lights in particular pulse faster than the eye can see, stimulating the brain and causing eyestrain and headaches. This can turn even a standard office environment into a painful stressor for those with light sensitivity.

In an ironic twist, the very medications used to treat headaches and migraine attacks can actually cause more pain. Using these medications more than 10 days a month can cause an increase in headache or migraine attack frequency. An estimated 60% of people develop chronic migraine due to medication use. Similarly, sunglasses, which are frequently used to ease photophobia, can actually increase sensitivity to light when worn indoors.

Sources: National Center for Biotechnology Information, World Health Organization

## **The TheraSpecs Solution**

Customers get out of the dark and back to their lives with TheraSpecs' eyewear. TheraSpecs' precision-tinted lenses coupled with its lightweight, protective frames filter the harmful light that causes eyestrain, headaches, and migraines. Moreover, research shows that TheraSpecs:

- Reduce migraine attack frequency by 74%
- Bring relief to almost 90% of people who try them
- Filter nearly 80% of the most harmful wavelengths of blue-green light, including those associated with the pulsing in fluorescent lighting
- Offer therapeutic relief without side effects or risk of medication overuse headache

## **Our Difference**

#### Maximum relief--tested and proven

The tint in TheraSpecs lenses has been independently tested and verified to filter more of the most harmful wavelengths of light (between 480-500nm) than comparable therapeutic eyewear. We also measure our lenses with a spectrophotometer to verify they filter the most painful light.



## Therapeutically focused design

Our frames gently cup a wearer's face to filter light from the sides and block the brightest direct light without cutting off peripheral vision.

#### Durable, lightweight frames

All of our frames are made of high-quality, ultra lightweight, flexible materials to minimize unnecessary pressure on the head and face.

#### Six unique styles

We offer six unique styles for adults and one children's style. Indoor and outdoor lenses are available for every style.

## Fully customizable

TheraSpecs can be made with any prescription and our lenses can be placed in any frame. We can create custom eyewear to meet just about any customer need.



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## **Our Story**

In 2012, following a lengthy, desperate search to find a treatment – if not a cure – for his wife's chronic, debilitating migraine attacks, Hart Shafer created TheraSpecs, precision-tinted eyewear to manage light sensitivity. Determining that a sensitivity to light, particularly fluorescent light, triggered and worsened his wife's migraines, and that photophobia was a common symptom of migraine, Hart and wife Kerrie Smyres began researching how to reduce the impact of light on her health.

Frustrated at the lack of solutions available to those with light sensitivities, Hart worked to create lightweight, precision-tinted eyewear that would filter the light that studies show trigger or worsen such problems as migraines, headaches, eyestrain, and more than 50 other health conditions. The eyewear he developed was so helpful for Kerrie that he made additional pairs for friends with chronic migraine. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and Hart knew he needed to make TheraSpecs available to others with similar symptoms.

Today, TheraSpecs offers six thoughtfully crafted eyewear styles for adults and one for children. Each design takes into account the angle of the lens and frame to most effectively filter harmful light and painful reflections without obstructing peripheral vision. Frames are constructed of durable yet lightweight and flexible materials to minimize pressure. Alternatively, customers may send in their own frames for the TheraSpecs optical lab to tint, cut, and mount prescription or non-prescription TheraSpecs lenses in them.

Light sensitivity prevents millions of people from getting through the normal activities of life—working, going to school, shopping, getting together with friends—without feeling ill. TheraSpecs goal is to help as many people as possible regain the enjoyment of their everyday lives. Beyond migraine, they have helped people with traumatic brain injury, chronic headache, fibromyalgia, autism spectrum disorder, chronic fatigue, epilepsy, Sjogren's syndrome, and even people who are otherwise healthy, but feel dizzy, woozy or ill under fluorescent lighting.

### **Our Founders**



#### Hart Shafer, CEO and Founder

Hart Shafer is an entrepreneur, product development executive, and the founder and CEO of TheraSpecs. He founded TheraSpecs while searching for a treatment to his wife's chronic, debilitating migraine attacks. As CEO, Hart oversees all aspects of the company, with a main focus on product design, development, and distribution. Prior to launching TheraSpecs, Hart served as vice president of product management for iZotope managing hardware and software product lines, including the Emmy<sup>®</sup> award-winning RX 2. He also served as a senior product manager at Adobe for audio products and the Creative Suite.



#### Kerrie Smyres, Co-Founder

Kerrie Smyres was instrumental in the development of TheraSpecs, and today she oversees the company's messaging and visibility in the chronic headache and migraine communities. Kerrie has battled excruciating migraines since adolescence. She advocates for individuals with light sensitivities and chronic headache and migraine at The Daily Headache, a site she created in 2005 to provide education, resources and support to the community. Kerrie is also a contributing writer to Migraine.com.

### **Learn More**

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