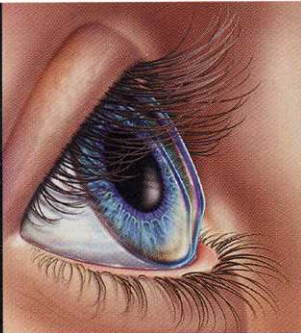


INNOVATION

# The Contact Solution



Fix your vision while you sleep. That's the promise of a new contact lens made by **Paragon Vision Sciences** of Mesa, Ariz. The firm's **Corneal Refractive Therapy** lens is worn overnight to flatten the top layer of the cornea. In the morning the contact comes out, and the wearer has normal vision for one to three days, until the cornea gradually reverts to its normal shape. Similar contacts have been around for decades, but these are the first approved by the FDA for wear during sleep. They are especially attractive to athletes and those who find daytime lenses uncomfortable. A fitting and a pair of lenses may cost more than \$1,000, vs. about \$300 for standard contacts. Sales since August 2002 have been about \$1.5 million and are growing 25% a month, according to Paragon, which is talking to potential distribution partners in Asia and Europe.