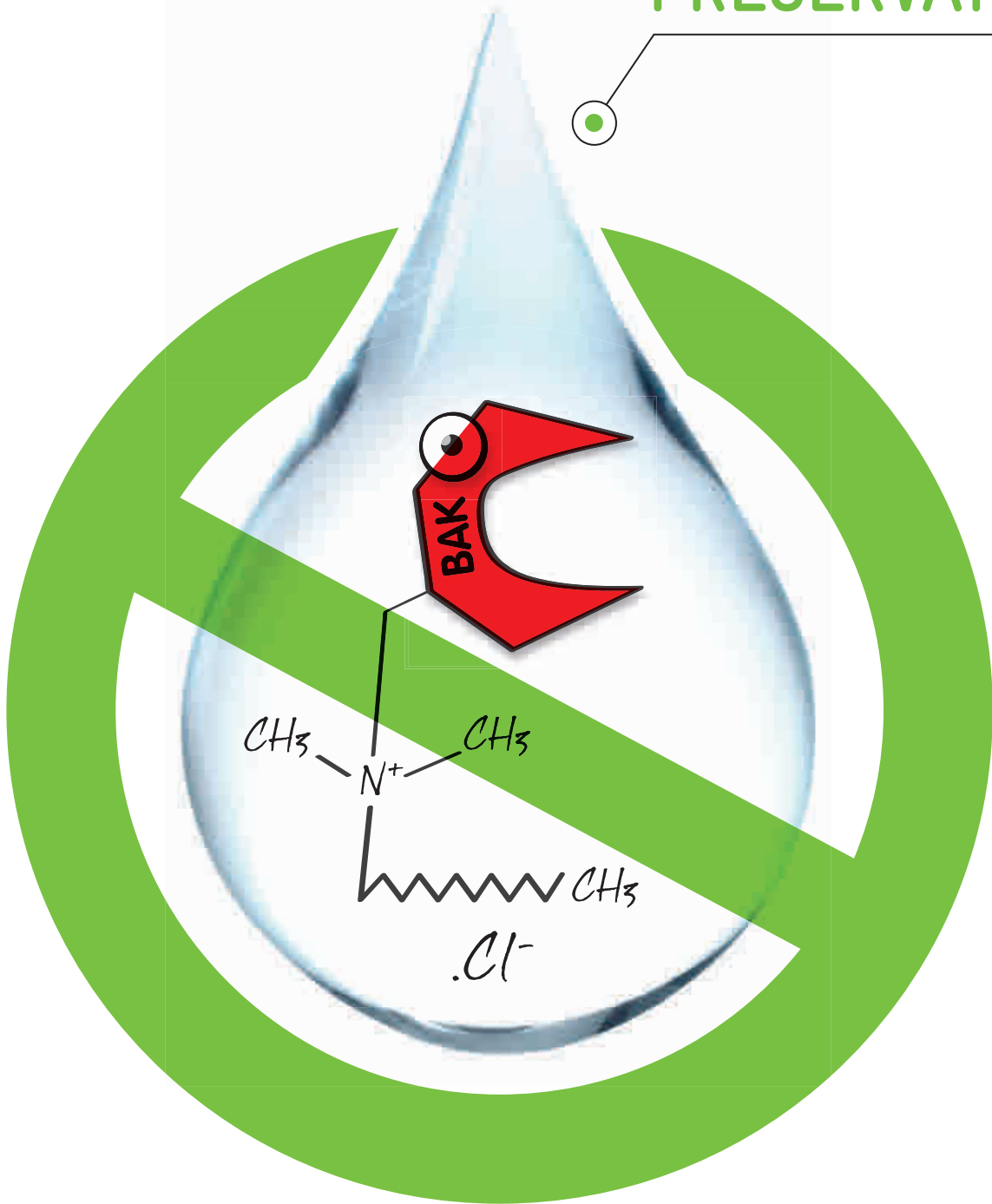


0%  
PRESERVATIVES



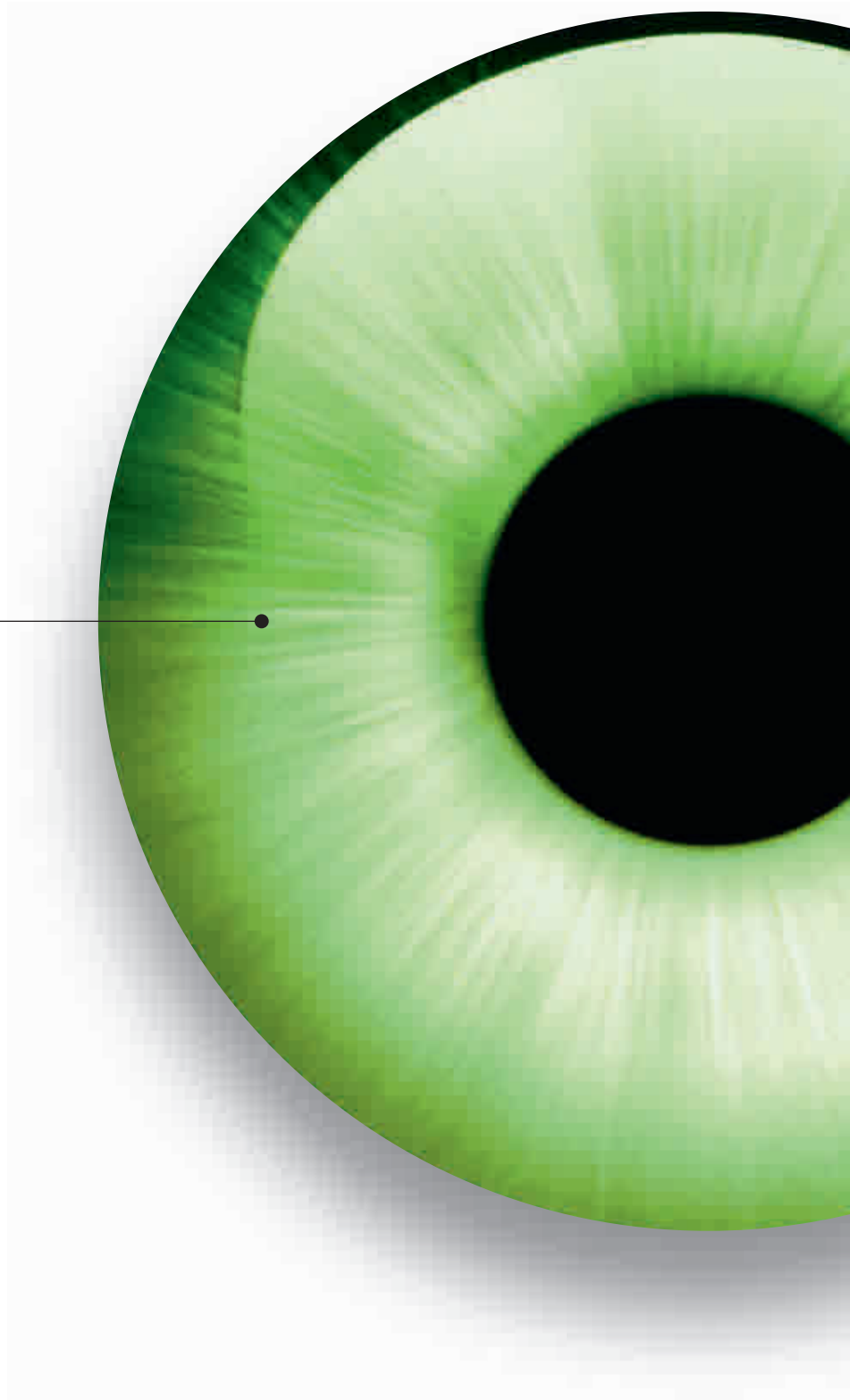
25 YEARS  
OF PRESERVATIVE-FREE  
EYE DROP

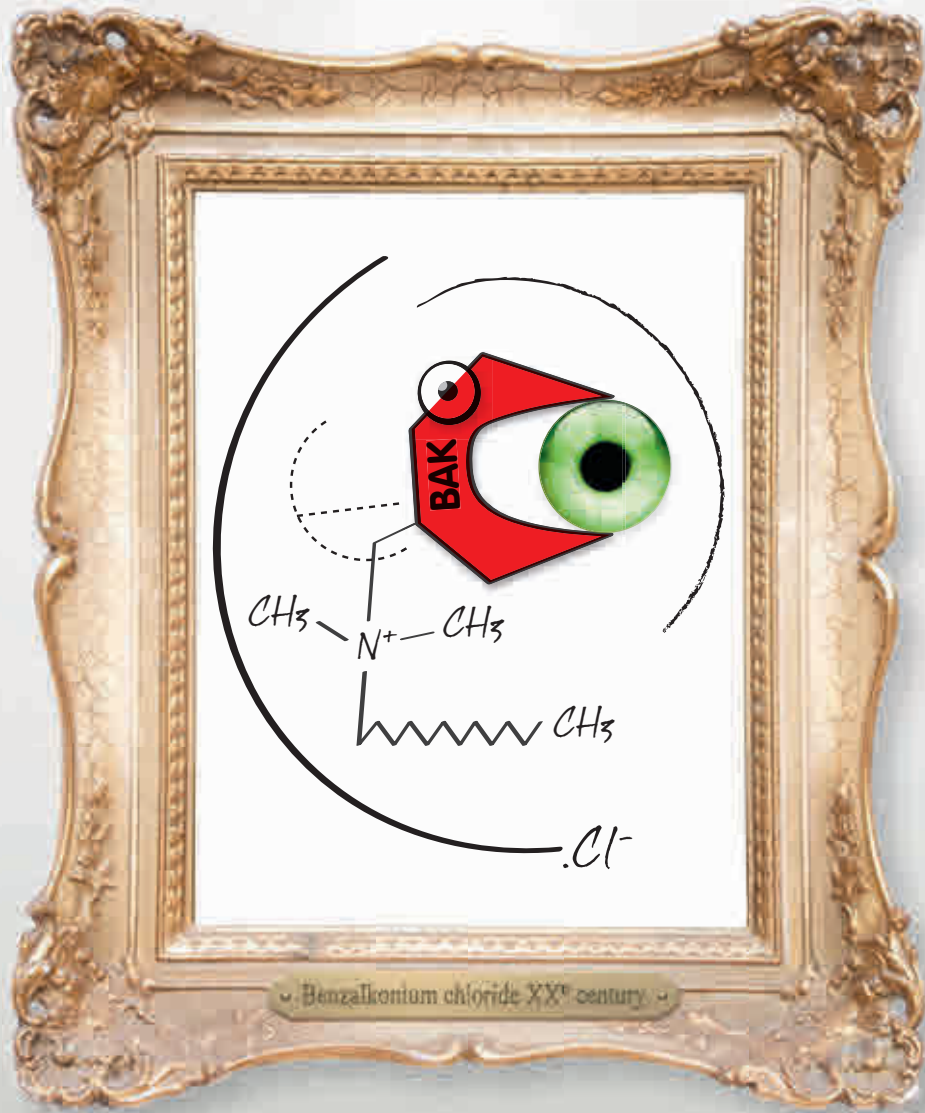
Prof. Christophe Baudouin  
Quinze-Vingts National Hospital Center  
for Ophthalmology and Vision Institute,  
Paris, France





Cure while preserving eye's capital





Preservatives were developed at the end of the Second World War to solve the problem of contamination of ophthalmic solutions. The best known and most widely used was Benzalkonium chloride.

# Once upon a time There were **preservatives...**

The use of preservatives allowed considerable progress to be made in the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries. The industrial manufacture of eye drops, which are more easily contaminated than ointments, was transformed by the introduction of preservatives.

The pioneer was my father, Jean CHIBRET, who was always concerned about the serious problem of microbial contamination, and consequently was the first to add a mercurial derivate to eye drops, followed a decade later by benzalkonium chloride, a more powerful but less allergenic compound. He also imposed the use of an after-opening use-by date. These two apparently simple ideas were adopted by all the health administration authorities.

However, the repeated use of all these preservatives has not only had the desired effects, but has also turned out to be harmful to the ocular surface over the years.

In the nineties, Professor Christophe BAUDOIN, Head of Department at the National XV-XX Eye Hospital in Paris, established the link between the use of preservatives and certain inflammatory reactions of the ocular surface. He quickly gained recognition among the international ophthalmic community.

Since then, his experimental and clinical work, rapidly confirmed by other research teams around the world, has allowed further data to be collected which clearly highlights the determining, if not exclusive role of preservatives in certain irritative and inflammatory conditions linked to the treatment of eye diseases.



**0%**

**PRESERVATIVES**



These past years have raised awareness and led to the following conclusion, based on a large amount of scientific evidence following the “evidence based medicine” concept: we should reduce the quantity of preservatives used in eye drops, or even eliminate them completely.

This is why, ironically enough, whilst still pursuing the CHIBRET family tradition, I have decided to eliminate the use of preservatives that my father had pioneered, by developing new eye drop packaging forms. Accordingly, in 1995 we launched the first preservative-free multi-dose bottle, Abak, which preserves the sterility of the bottle contents through a filter membrane for up to 3 months after opening.

Therefore, 25 years later, we thought it would be of interest to review the latest findings and advances on the subject of 0% preservatives.

Ophthalmology has entered into a new era, creating  
**“a preservative-free generation of patients”.**

I wish you a pleasant read.

**Henri Chibret**

Founder of Transphyto and Laboratoires Théa  
Chairman of the Board of Théa Holding