



Location
California, US



Device
Monaco



Doctors in Practice
Two

Retinal Imaging: A Vital Tool for Detection and Education



Dr. Robert Downs, OD
Anaheim Hills Optometric Care

Robert Downs, OD, of Anaheim Hills Optometric Center in Anaheim Hills, California, recalls a pivotal moment when he attended a seminar in 2010 that dramatically shaped the way he approaches eye care. During the event, Dr. Downs sat down with representatives from Optos to have an ultra-widefield (UWF™) retinal image taken. What began as a casual conversation, soon turned into a life-changing surprise.

"I had two retinal detachments, and I was completely asymptomatic," Dr. Downs shares. "One was treated with cryotherapy immediately, and the other with laser surgery later on." This personal experience led him to invest in Optos technology for his practice, which he describes as a tremendous practice builder and a tool that significantly enhances patient satisfaction.

The practice has integrated Optos UWF imaging as a routine part of patient care. "Almost every patient gets the imaging done," he says, highlighting the importance of this technology in providing thorough eye exams.

One of the key advantages is his ability to identify serious conditions such as cataracts, corneal disease, or retinal issues quickly. "Being able to see the retina right away is a game-changer," he explains. Because he can show the

optomap images to a patient in the exam room, he can provide a high level of education about what he looks for during an eye exam to ensure ocular health.

“In a busy practice, where two doctors are doing 300-400 exams a month, the return on investment is very quick. It's one of the most profitable technologies in the office, and that helps me offset other technology or services that might not be as profitable.”

Lifesaving discoveries

In 2018, the practice upgraded to the Optos Monaco, a device combining UWF retinal imaging with OCT. Monaco provides color, autofluorescence and OCT images in a single, comprehensive view. Dr. Downs says he particularly appreciates the ability to provide patients with a screening OCT without having to move the patient to a second piece of equipment.

Dr. Downs recounts several instances where Optos imaging played a critical role in diagnosing potentially life-threatening conditions. One patient was an OD who was not even a regular at his practice and had mentioned reduced acuity following cataract surgery. "We did a screening on the Monaco just to get a look at the macula without having to run a complete Optovue OCT. She had superior retinal tears, the most dangerous kind. This showed up because of a routine screening," he says, still marveling at quality and importance of the imaging. "We got her into surgery the next day. Her eyes are fine now."

Another case involved a patient who only had motion perception in one eye. Despite a previously normal MRI, **optomap** imaging revealed a swollen optic nerve, leading to a further neurological workup. On more than occasion, he has instructed patients to snap a photo of the **optomap** on screen and go immediately to the ER. These examples underscore the importance of regular imaging and the capability of **optomap** to detect issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Dr. Downs says that he can tell so many of these stories - either vision-threatening concerns or ocular health changes patients should be aware of. One of the most significant benefits of **optomap** imaging is the ability to show patients their images. For example, he can detect and show patients signs of early macular degeneration.

Incorporating Optos imaging as also streamlined the workflow in the practice. "Our patients get the imaging done during pretest," he explains. For new patients or those

with unusual histories or current complaints such as flashes and floaters, he will look at the images before coming into the exam room. But with most patients, he will quickly open the images the share with the patient.

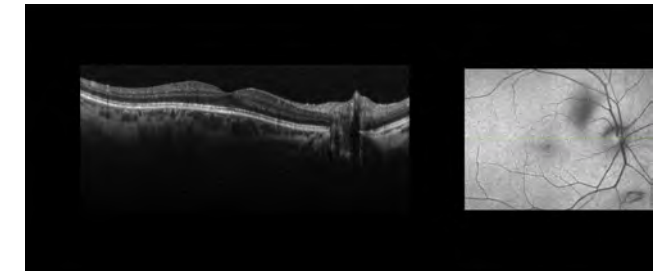
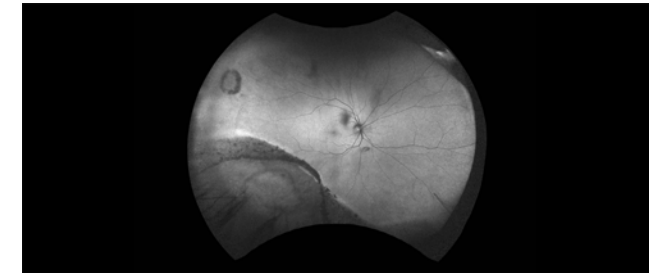
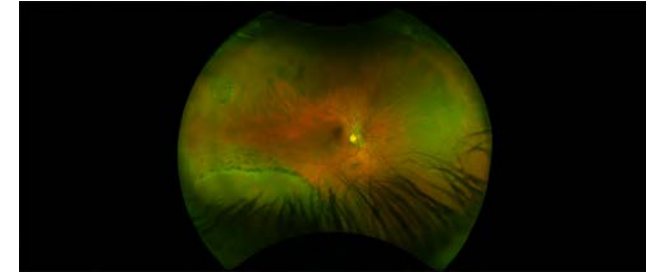
Financial viability and practice growth

Beyond the clinical benefits, Dr. Downs emphasizes the financial viability of incorporating **optomap** into his practice. "In a busy practice, where two doctors are doing 300-400 exams a month, the return on investment is very quick. It's one of the most profitable technologies in the office, and that helps me offset other technology or services that might not be as profitable," he says.

Optos technology has become an indispensable tool in his practice. "It's a stunning thing," Dr. Downs concludes, reflecting on the many lives he has impacted thanks to this advanced technology. From that first encounter with Optos technology nearly fifteen years ago, where his own retinal detachments were detected, he says the value is unmatched. "I will not live without it. I'll do it for a patient for free if I have to." The peace of mind that comes with knowing he isn't missing anything is invaluable, which he says also allows him to continue to practice with confidence for many more years.



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optomap color (top), autofluorescence (middle) and OCT images detect peripheral retinal detachments .



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