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Aaron Werner, OD

Practice Information

- Werner Optometry – El Cajon, CA
- Two OD, private practice

Reasons for Purchase

- Technological Innovation
- Practice Efficiency
- Clinical Decision Making

Optos technology has been a valuable player to Werner Optometry in El Cajon, California for some time now. Aaron Werner, OD joined his father, Rex Werner, OD, in the practice and watched the technology improve immensely over time. When the practice brought in *Monaco*, the latest from Optos, an ultra-widefield imaging device with integrated OCT, Dr. Werner knew they had the technology they had always wanted.

“*Monaco* provides us with the ultra-widefield views we’ve grown to love, plus it has an integrated OCT. These technologies really are the ‘standard of care’, and they have always been separate, so it’s wonderful having them all in one device,” Dr. Werner says.

The factor that surprised him most was how much time he saved. “There were efficiency scales that I never realized I could reach. Think of the time it takes to settle a patient for an **optomap**, then walk the patient over to the OCT, re-enter data and then reposition the patient. It took about five minutes per patient,” he says, noting that those who moved slowly, or children, often take even longer. Now the process is much faster and streamlined. “Click, I take the **optomap** image. Click, I take the autofluorescence image. And then with just a slight repositioning because the fixation targets are the same, I take the OCT images. It’s a huge time saver.”

Saving several minutes per patient allows space for an additional exam slot or two in a busy practice, but Dr. Werner states that he appreciates the more advanced diagnostics he can get for all patients.

Dr. Werner has an opportunity to visit many private practices, and the one complaint he hears often is that there is not enough time to do everything the doctor wants to do during a visit. “That’s at the top of the list. We all think that if we had more time, we’d be able to do more. The genius of combining an OCT with **optomap** imaging is really the way to get that time.”

Monaco, he says, is that rare combination of equipment that helps the staff save office time without compromising any of the quality or value of the exam. In fact, it heightens it because it provides him with so much data before he even enters the exam room.

It also provides him with a wonderful education tool. “I have all the images in the same place, so I don’t have to toggle between images. I can say, ‘here’s a 200-degree image of your retina, which is almost the whole surface. We can look for changes not only related to eye health, but also diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure,’ and then I can move to the autofluorescence images. I finish reviewing the OCT images, explaining how these are a cross-section of the images we just looked at.” Patients appreciate learning not only their retina anatomy but are also intrigued that the eyes can give so much data about their overall health. “I’m no longer a data collector in the exam room. I have the data presented to me so that I can look at the results, interpret them and make a professional judgement on which direction we’re going to go.”

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Optos plc
Tel: +44 (0)1383 843350
ics@optos.com

Optos, Inc.
Tel: 800-854-3039
usinfo@optos.com

Optos Australia
Tel: +61 8 8444 6500
auinfo@optos.com