

The Right Technology Can Help Build Specialty Services

Being a progressive eye care professional means investing in the practice when new instrumentation can bring additional diagnostic abilities. Two Vision Source® members—**Cheryl Chapman, OD, IACMM, FIAOMC, FAAO**, of Gretna Vision Source in Omaha, Nebraska, and **Dave**



Dr. Chapman



Dr. Kading

Kading, OD, FAAO, of Specialty Eye in Kirkland, Seattle and Bellevue, Washington—both found their solutions with OCULUS instruments to enable them to do more for their patients.

Specialty contact lenses

Dr. Chapman has built her practice with a reputation for specialty contact lenses, especially with myopia management, orthokeratology and keratoconus patients. Since she added the Pentacam® from OCULUS to her practice nearly two years ago, it has become one of her primary tools for diagnosis, improved outcomes and even patient education.

All patients ages 5 to 20 are imaged as part of her practice protocol. “I want to get a baseline at the point they come into my office, and then at adolescence, we’ll repeat scans to see if the back surface data is changing,” she says.

For her, the Pentacam® is invaluable because the technology is based on a Scheimpflug tomography instead of Placido ring-based topography. “It gives us the back surface elevation data so we can catch cones sooner.”

Plus, it allows her to run a progression analysis over time. “I find that useful, especially when I’m fitting ortho-k lenses. It’s the only way I can detect an emerging keratoconic patient by seeing the back surface.” As a result, it allows her to screen her ortho-k patients and potentially prevent adverse outcomes. “I want to minimize their susceptibility to developing central corneal abrasions,” she says.

The Pentacam is easy to operate, she says. Her staff members were

excited to use it, and they have come to understand how the technology provides her with improved clinical data over Placido disc systems. “Even for people with deep set eyes or prominent brows, the capture is easier than on other systems,” she says. That allows her to get that initial screening and follow up with additional scans if she uncovers data that warrants it.

While it can be challenging to measure the intangible benefits of technology, Dr. Chapman says she believes she’s achieved her return on investment by now. “Every day, I say I’m glad to be doing this. I feel so lucky to have this technology and this level of data support in my practice.”

Myopia science grows

For Dr. Kading, one new addition to his diagnostic technology is performing impressively. He recently added Myopia Master®, an autorefractor and keratometer that can also measure the patient’s axial length. Knowing that piece of the puzzle has made a big difference in patient selection and education, he says.

As is true for many ODs who manage children, “We have observed that nearsightedness continues to increase. Most of us saw that during the pandemic, and traditionally ODs managed that with the observation of refractive error changes,” he says.

But understanding what is happening with the axial length is not only important to him, it’s also a great tool for educating patients and their parents. Axial length can be directly correlated to the risk of pathologic myopia, he says. “Patients with an axial length of less than 26mm have a risk of 3.8%,” he says. “That goes up to 25% if the axial length is greater than 26mm, and if axial length reaches 30mm or higher, then the risk is 90%,” he says.

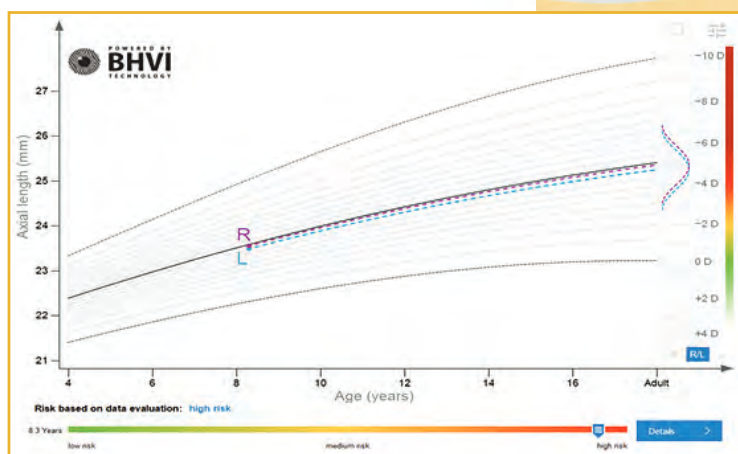
Using the progression software, he can print out and show parents what the growth curve might look like without intervention, or he can

show them how the treatment is slowing down the progression of axial length elongations. “It’s an objective measurement,” he says.

Identifying dry eye

Another OCULUS instrument, the Keratograph® 5M, has helped him build his dry eye practice. With a suite of dry eye tools, including meibography, this instrument is another that he uses daily. Patients are screened for dry eye if they report symptoms or complaint and return for a dry eye workup before starting a treatment regimen.

Not only does this allow the doctors to provide patients with relief, treating patients’ dry eye symptoms



can help keep them in contact lenses longer. Contact lens discomfort is one of the primary reasons patients drop out of contact lenses, but “having the objective device that we can show patients where the problems are” is helpful.

“The majority of optometrists, especially Vision Source doctors, are performing above and beyond what we used to think was standard. We must do as much as we can for patients—and now that instruments are allowing us to provide these objective measures, it becomes imperative that we aim for prevention and early intervention,” says Dr. Kading.

Dr. Chapman agrees, noting that ODs should never stop being curious. “I have nearly all of the instruments I think I want, but when I walk around the exhibit hall at The Exchange®, I begin to see new ways of advancing my practice.” **VS**

The Myopia Master® from OCULUS and risk progression charts can help doctors track changes and educate patients.

