

Optos technology saves sight for Indiana patients

An Indiana-based optometrist with 15 years of experience says he wouldn't be doing his patients justice if he didn't have advanced imaging technology in his practice.

Yaryan Eye Care Center in Connersville, Indiana, was opened by Dr. Andy Yaryan in 2009, and offers various eye care services, eyewear, contact lenses and prescription sunglasses.

With a team of four optometrists, Dr. Yaryan has always been adamant to use the best technology available to aid the efficiency of his practice and to ensure the best care of his patients.

Dr. Yaryan discovered Optos technology during a state convention in Indianapolis in 2019. After seeing the benefits first-hand, he agreed to a three-week in-practice device evaluation with the Optos *California*. Soon the entire team agreed that going forward, the practice needed to use ultra-widefield (UWFTM) retinal imaging.

At the end of the three-week period, Dr. Yaryan decided to invest in *California*, followed by two *Daytona* devices in 2020 and 2021.

Poverty is a significant issue in our local community but once we explain how an optomap® can spot so much of the retina, the majority of our patients are more than happy to pay the extra few dollars. I truly believe that with this innovation now readily available, we wouldn't be doing our patients justice if we weren't using Optos technology.



K. Andrew Yaryan, OD Yaryan Eye Care Center

Putting patients first

Once the devices were in place, the team at Yaryan Eye Care Center quickly saw how beneficial the technology was for the business and patients.

"Between myself and my team, we have more than 75 years of experience. But if you can give us the tools to improve our skills even more, then that's a no-brainer. **opto**map images give us a much wider view of what we'd see with a regular fundus camera, allowing us to spot diseases or problems before they become a serious issue. Having this reassurance is invaluable and has already benefitted some of our patients in life-changing ways. "Explained Dr. Yaryan.

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While the poverty rate in the surrounding area of the practice is above 28%, patients fully embraced the new devices and were happy to pay the additional fee for the **opto**map screening. Since introducing the three devices, Dr. Yaryan and his team have managed to spot several serious eye conditions thanks to the imaging.

He said: "Last year, we had a seven-year-old patient come in after experiencing headaches and sickness. Thanks to the advanced imaging, we spotted swelling on his optic nerve, leading to a diagnosis of a rare type of cancer, neuroblastoma. Luckily, the image managed to show the growth at an early stage and the patient got the treatment he needed early.

From high blood pressure to retinal vein occlusion that can lead to blindness, using **opto**map has helped us improve what we do and ultimately, save the sight of our patients.

Being able to show patients what we're seeing in real-time is also a huge plus. It reassures our patients that everything is being spotted while it also gives us the added reassurance that we're giving the best care possible. If something has been detected, we can share these images quickly with any secondary care providers and speed up the treatment needed for our patients."

And that's the bottom line

Yaryan Eye Care Center has now been using Optos technology for 4 years.

"The decision to invest in UWF imaging technology was an easy one. The images take seconds to capture, and our patients love seeing what we are looking at there and then. It makes our job a lot easier as we have peace of mind that everything is being seen, and if we have any concerns, we can easily explain to our patients what is happening.

Above the benefits to us as eye care professionals and our patients, the return on investment was almost immediate.

If you are thinking about upgrading your current tech, or exploring what Optos can do, I'd encourage you to go for it.

There's no pressure to buy and you can trial it with you team to make sure everyone is happy before making a decision. My only wish is that I'd done this sooner!"

Dr. Yaryan is also a board-certified Optometrist from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.





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