A study conducted at a prominent research university, found a 28 minute (33%) reduction in patient visit duration after implementing centralized optomap imaging.¹

The project was undertaken to reduce patient visit time. Photography was identified as a major bottleneck in patient movement and clinic efficiency. Key process changes included:

- training ophthalmic technicians to perform optomap in addition to OCTs
- placing imaging equipment in adjacent rooms
- better aligning staff and doctor schedules

To support the new flow, the clinic procured three additional Optos devices.¹

- prior to the changes, average patient visit duration was 87 minutes. Four weeks after implementation average patient visit duration was 58.5 min.¹ The authors noted other program benefits including:
  - increased patient satisfaction scores¹
  - less downtime for patients and fewer staff handoffs¹
  - minimizing patient movement throughout the clinic¹

The authors noted that the relative ease of implementation and the program benefits show similar changes can be applied to other clinics, with similar results expected.¹

“As patient volumes increase, finding ways to reduce patient wait times and improve clinic efficiency will be even more important, especially as ophthalmology appointments are already often prolonged compared to other outpatient visits due to the frequent need for specialized imaging.”

— Retina, 2021

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More Findings regarding optomap Imaging and Improvements in Clinic Efficiency

- Average patient visit duration prior to the optomap imaging changes was 87 minutes. Four weeks after implementation, average duration was 58.5 – a reduction of 28.5 minutes or 33%.¹

- This study has shown that improving clinic efficiency can be accomplished by reducing bottlenecks in clinic workflow. Reallocation of resources, including reorganizing equipment and training clinic personnel for new responsibilities, is a more cost-effective solution than only focusing on capital purchases or hiring additional personnel.¹

- A previous study found similar results, “In the first year after we integrated UWF retinal imaging, we saw 220 more patients, an increase of 4.4% over the pre-UWF period, which was an average of 1.5 additional patient encounters per day.”²

References:
¹ Successful interventions to improve efficiency and reduce patient visit duration in a retina practice. Retina, 2021.