



When Gwen Jacobson, 64, crossed the finish line at the 2022 Grandma's Marathon with a sizzling 3:24 time she was ecstatic with her performance and so much more. During a routine eye exam two days before, her doctor used his state-of-the-art **optomap** device to take an ultra-widefield (UWF™) picture of her retina.

Though Gwen was in excellent health and completely asymptomatic, the **optomap** showed retinal tears in the far periphery of her left eye. The news was shocking and devastating. Retinal tears or detachments can occur due to head trauma but often happen with no warning. Whatever the cause, left untreated they can result in permanent blindness.

A highly competitive elite runner, Gwen needed surgery but refused to miss her upcoming marathon. Though she has only been running for 10 years, Gwen has completed marathons in all 50 states - each with the Boston Marathon qualifying time! Fewer than ten women have ever accomplished this feat. Now, a strong time in the Grandma's Marathon would secure her a bib for the Boston Marathon. "That race was very important to me. I was determined to run no matter what," she said.

As he sent her scans to a retinal surgeon at Mayo Clinic, her doctor suggested Gwen put race plans on hold until hearing what the specialist said. Within the hour, the surgeon called and asked, "how quickly can you get here?" Just hours after her **optomap**, Gwen had laser treatment. "They said I was okay, and I was confident I could run." Two days later she did - finishing first in her age group, securing a spot in the Boston Marathon again, as well as an invitation to the Age Group World Championships. The points she earned for her age group secured her first-place position in the world.

"This race was extremely important for me. However, I run my races harder than I train," Gwen noted, adding, "without treatment the exertion of the marathon would have caused my retina to detach."

"optomap saved my vision. I am fortunate that Dr. Addison has optomap and that he used the images to expedite my treatment at the Mayo Clinic."

Gwen Jacobson
Elite marathon runner

"I saw the tears instantly on the optomap, and the images facilitated her quick and successful treatment at Mayo Clinic."

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