

Tom Felstet, OD made it a priority to purchase an **optomap ultra-widefield (UWF™)** imaging device when opening his new practice.



Practice Information: Vision Optical, Billings, MT, single doctor, private practice

Optometrist: Tom Felstet, OD

Device: **Daytona**

Reasons for Purchase: Technological Innovation, Standard of Care, Patient Education

Dr. Felstet had the opportunity to utilize the **optomap** technology in Optometry school as well as in his early years of practice. When he opened his own private practice, he knew that he had to have **optomap** as it is the only retinal imaging technology that captures over 80% of the retina in a single image.

When patients come to see Felstet he explains the importance of a comprehensive eye exam which also includes **optomap**. He gives the option to be dilated or, for a small fee, to have **optomap** screening without dilation. "Like many practitioners, I have always told my patients that they need to have a dilated exam at least every other year," he explains. However, the past few years utilizing **optomap** I have realized that I discover far more pathology, often far sooner, than I might with only a DFE. I have found changes and pathology, that I could have missed otherwise."

Detection

Recently Felstet make a potentially life-saving detection on a patient named Jessica.

Felstet recalls that when Jessica came to see him that day, she was clearly in a hurry and quite adamant that she simply needed a contacts prescription and did not want to be dilated. "She was a healthy woman in her mid-50's, with no remarkable family history and she did not report any symptoms. But fortunately for her she checked the box to get the **optomap** screening."

“It helps me provide the best service to my patients. I honestly think there is no reason to practice without it.”



In Felstet's office, once acquired, the **optomap** image is projected immediately on the exam room monitor. When he walked in to see Jessica, he took one look at her image on the screen and saw very clearly a lesion in her right eye.

"It was just far enough out that it would have been missed on an undilated slit lamp examination," notes Felstet. When he showed it to Jessica he explained the area of concern and indicated that she should see an ophthalmologist.

Diagnosis

Jessica was referred to an ocular oncologist in Denver where it was discovered that she had a tumor 11mm wide, only one half of a millimeter from what would have resulted in an automatic enucleation. Jessica was treated immediately and successfully with radioactive plaque therapy.

Felstet says that he still gets chills when he thinks of how close Jessica came to losing her eye and how disruptive this experience was for him as a practitioner.

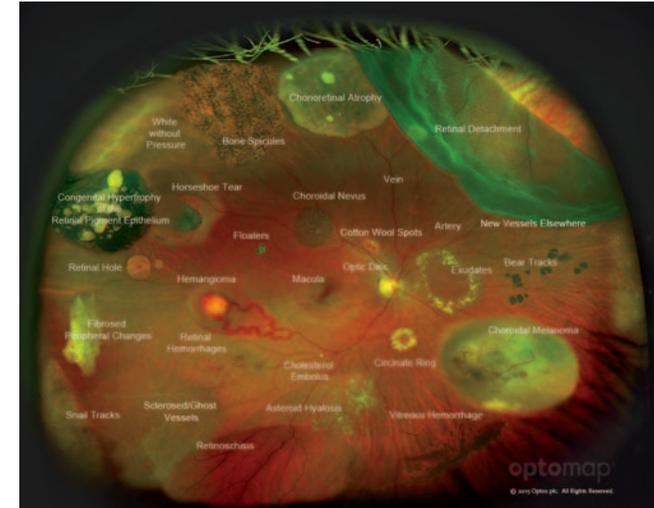
He underscores that he has always been committed to providing comprehensive eye care, however he gives extra priority to communicating to his patients the critical importance of having a thorough examination of the retina every year.

"It is interesting to me how close that tumor was to her macula and yet she was not aware of any changes to her vision in that field, if she had not come in for her contacts when she did and if we had allowed her to refuse dilation, or an **optomap**, she would have likely lost her eye or could have lost her life." He muses, "She returned to me recently and we took another **optomap** image, while reviewing the image, I thought to myself how amazing that she is still here but that she also still has her central vision. I told her that she is miracle."

A New Gold Standard?

Felstet notes that he has detected numerous pathologies on other patients, since Jessica's visit, from subtle pigment changes that suggested dangerous lesions to BRVO in young, outwardly healthy individuals.

"I am much more direct now about the importance of getting an **optomap** and about what I see on those images. I really would not want to practice without it because it would be hard to miss something as the pathology really stands out. It gives me enormous peace of mind." Felstet is confident that **optomap** UWF will become the gold standard of care.



optomap images may assist eyecare professionals to detect and diagnose ocular and systemic disease.



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