

BBR Optometry credits Optos device with making the invisible, visible



Optometrist: Nicholas Rumney
Device: California rg/af
Consulting rooms: 5
Optometrists: 6

Hereford optometrist, Nicholas Rumney, has had an Optos California at his independent practice since 2017. Here, he talks about why **optomap**® is saving the eyesight of hundreds.

Nicholas Rumney has been an IP Optometrist and Chairman at BBR Optometry in Hereford since 1992. The practice specialises in low vision, independent prescribing, glaucoma and medical retina.

Nicholas made the decision to introduce an Optos Daytona into the practice in 2012, before upgrading to the Optos California in 2017. "I wanted to provide a better quality of care for our patients", Nicholas explains. He credits the introduction of ultra-widefield technology with "saving the eyesight of hundreds".

The practice sees around 7,200 primary visit patients per year and has six optometrists.

Nicholas says that the California has enabled the practice to enhance patient eye care. "All of us now feel confident that important issues won't be missed during an examination."

The benefits of ultra-widefield technology

The California device provides a 200-degree single capture digital image of the retina – an **optomap** image – potentially uncovering serious eye issues such as retinal breaks, tears or detachments, and with the built in autofluorescence (AF) imaging, hydroxy-chloroquine retinopathy or geographic atrophy (GA).

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“The **optomaps** from the California allows us to advise ophthalmologists better, and more confidently, on specific clinical issues. Also, we can show the images to patients, which is even more helpful when we spot any problems”, Nicholas explains.

He continues: “I would say there are many benefits of having a California compared to our original Daytona. It has new hardware and software technology, and it is faster and more accurate than other devices. It has a motorised head and chin rest to more easily assist those patients requiring additional aid during imaging, and it allows BBR to diagnose conditions that would be otherwise invisible. Knowing we are using the top technology to protect, and in some cases, save the sight of our patients is a great feeling.”

Ease of integration

Nicholas says that the entire practice finds the California device exceptionally easy to use and has done since it was first integrated into the practice. “As with the Daytona, training for new staff members is quick and

straightforward, but we have ongoing support and training from Optos if, we really need it.”

But how do the patients feel about this technology forming part of their routine eye examinations? “Our patients are still fascinated by the device and find the whole process very simple. We have viewing stations in each room, which means we can educate our patients by showing them any problem areas on their eyes and if, or when, they might need to seek help.”

He continues: “This is essential when we come across urgent situations. One day, a patient came in to see us for a routine eye examination at 4pm. At 4.20pm they were referred to A&E and by 7pm they were in surgery: the California device had uncovered a retinal detachment.”

Nicholas says that referrals for urgent sight-threatening conditions are not uncommon, with at least one case per week being identified at the practice. “It just reiterates the impact the device has had on the service we provide, and how many people’s sight has been saved thanks to this piece of tech.”

Investing in progress

In terms of costs, buying the California has been a significant investment for BBR Optometry, but Nicholas says it has protected the bottom line, enabling the practice to continue its planned development of clinical services, whilst increasing fees per hour for service. “The investment in ultra-widefield is a no-brainer.”

Nicholas finishes with one final piece of advice for any optometrists considering an Optos ultra-widefield device for their practice: “For anyone looking to introduce **optomap** retinal imaging, I’d say make sure you have a sound business plan in place, so you know you are going to generate return.”

The California is used as standard in all private examinations at BBR Optometry and 75% of NHS patients add the service to their examinations.



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