



HOW TO GET STARTED WITH OCT

with Kelly Kerksick, OD

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Kelly Kerksick, OD, graduated from Southern College of Optometry and immediately started her own private practice in 2002. Dr. Kerksick's private practice serves a community of about 8,000 people where she sees a wide range of patients, from pediatrics to geriatrics. Dr. Kerksick

agreed to share her experiences and insights in owning and using the Optovue iVue OCT system in daily clinical practice.

An OCT system is an easy instrument to implement into any office setting. Let's explore how effortless the process was through the eyes of Dr. Kelly Kerksick.

What is the OCT system installation and training process like?

After the purchase of an OCT system, Optovue sends a Clinical Applications Specialist (CAS) to your office to install the instrument and train staff members how to use it by performing OCT scans on actual patients. Dr. Kerksick further adds, "The iVue system was extremely easy to use, and my staff felt very comfortable with it after the first training."

How long does it take to begin using the OCT system in practice?

Dr. Kerksick recalled, "We began using the OCT system immediately. I had patients that needed an OCT scan scheduled the same day we had on-site training. As soon as the training was complete, the staff began performing the scans on actual patients. It was all very easy."

What are some reactions, from doctors or staff, about using the OCT system?

The staff members were impressed by the ease of use the instrument and Dr. Kerksick was astonished by the state-of-the-art technology, which “really changes the way you look at the retina, the optic nerve and even the cornea.”

Dr. Kerksick confided that doctors may be surprised by the amount of ocular disease discoverable with an OCT scan that otherwise would not have been apparent on a traditional exam. She reveals her own humbling experience, which occurred during the training session. An iWellness Exam report showed that a staff member was a glaucoma suspect. Dr. Kerksick shares, “I was shocked. I had been doing regular eye exams on her and her optic nerve was normal and her eye pressures were low. But after doing the scan we found a higher level of concern and realized she needs to be watched more closely. It convinced everyone that the OCT system is a very valuable instrument, and the staff all became very passionate about how we can use it to manage patients.”

Do I have the patient population for an OCT system?

A common misconception optometrists make is that their current patient population is healthy and would not benefit from OCT technology. Dr. Kerksick reveals, “I’ve said the same thing! However, I was fooling myself that patients were totally healthy, because, once we did the scans on ‘healthy’ patients, we learned some were high risk for glaucoma and macular degeneration or had glaucoma already. The OCT assisted me in discovering these diagnoses.”

Do I need to hire new staff to run the OCT system?

The Optovue iVue OCT system is so user-friendly, “if you have someone that

can answer the phone or type on the computer, you have someone that can run the OCT," Dr. Kerksick ensures.

How much time does it take to perform an OCT scan?

In Dr. Kerksick's experience, "for a patient that can follow instructions and has no mobility issues, a trained staff member can take anywhere from 1-3 mins to complete the scans. A more complex patient that is perhaps older or needs more guidance will take probably 5 minutes."

How do you include the OCT scan into your exam?

Dr. Kerksick's staff mainly performs the OCT scan at the beginning of the exam, along with other pre-testing assessments. However, the OCT scan can be performed during any part of the exam sequence at the discretion of the practitioner since the patient does not need to be dilated to yield superb scan results.

Where am I going to put the OCT system in my office?

Dr. Kerksick recommends placing the OCT system in a location that is accessible for wheelchairs or older patients with mobility issues, but far enough away from high-traffic areas to prevent accidents from people moving around the office.

In Dr. Kerksick's space-efficient practice, she does not have a separate pre-testing room, rather most of the pre-testing equipment is handheld, so that it can be moved to the patient's location. Currently, the OCT system is set up in

the contact lens room. "Most of the patients opt for the OCT exam, so they will be brought into the contact lens room for the scan and all the other pretesting equipment is brought to the patient in that room."

Concluding remarks:

"It is really easy to implement OCT technology into your practice. Decide where you want it and bring it in," concludes Dr. Kerksick.