



# HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF A NEW OCT

with Kelly Kerksick, OD

---

## 3



## How to Make the Most of a New OCT

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 instrumental tool that enhances patient care and a smart financial investment to expand a practice. Explore how owning an Optovue OCT system has improved patient care and practitioner expertise.

### How does the OCT system benefit patients?

"From a patient's perspective, the OCT exam offers an advanced technology that helps us diagnose devastating ocular diseases and then ensure they receive the best possible care for their condition," says Dr. Kerksick. This is a point she and her staff members will emphasize to the patient, so they understand the value of having an OCT scan.

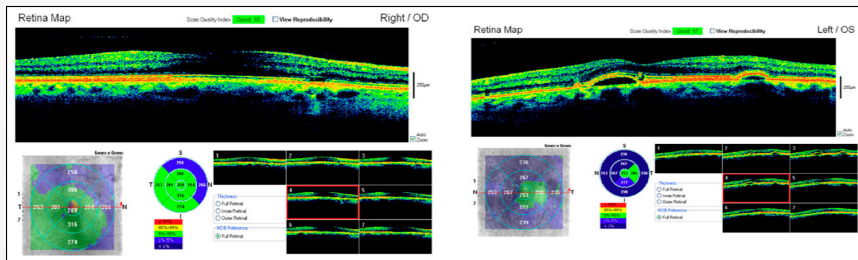
### How does the OCT system benefit the practitioner?

The incorporation of OCT technology has greatly expanded the scope of Dr. Kerksick's practice and equipped her to manage a range of ocular disease.

Dr. Kerksick provides an example, "A new patient presented with complaints of difficulty reading. Due to age, my first thought was 'it's probably cataracts.'

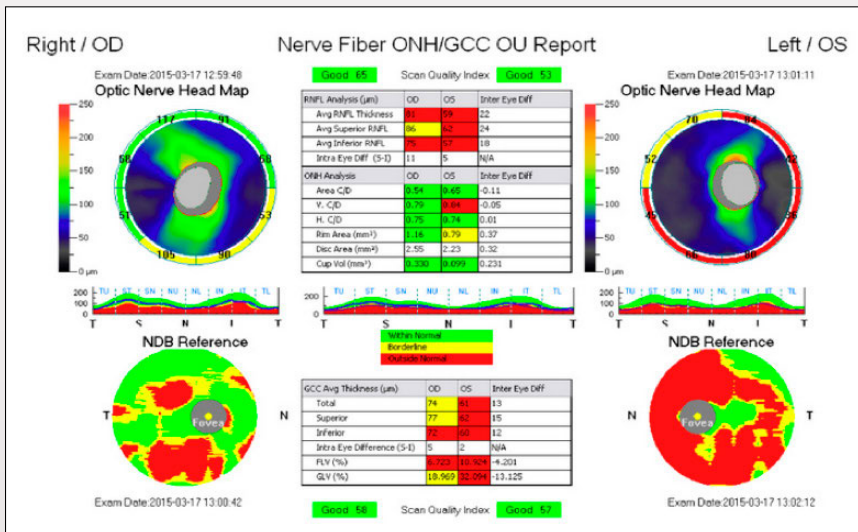
To my surprise, after a full eye exam, and performing a supplemental retinal and ONH OCT scan, the scans revealed a pigment epithelial detachment and glaucoma!"

Retinal OCT:



ONH OCT:

She adds, "As a result of what the OCT system helped me uncover, I prescribed two topical ocular hypotensive drops for the glaucoma and a topical NSAID to treat the pigment epithelial detachment."

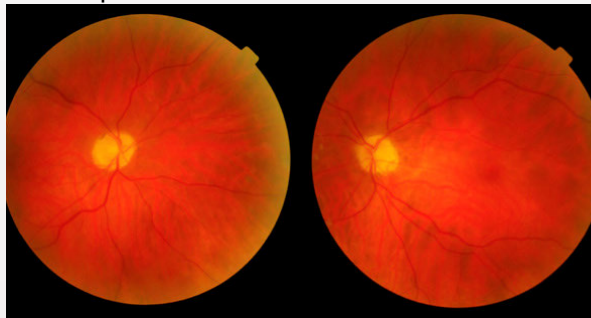


She continues with another example, "I have an established 58-year-old female patient with no visual complaints, no significant family ocular history and normal IOP. She is the ultimate example of your 'healthy patient who comes in every year for contacts

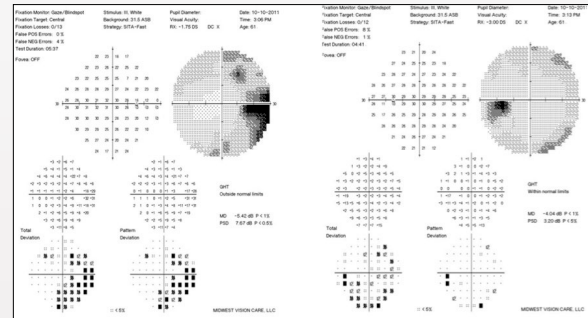
and sees great. However, the iWellness Exam demonstrated drastic nerve fiber layer and ganglion cell complex loss which led me to a visual field. An anterior angle OCT scan was also done to be sure there wasn't anything going on anatomically with the angle structure. VEP was done to determine how well the Ganglion cells were functioning. There were some notable changes with GCC function that made sense after seeing the structural changes to the GCC layer (See images below.)

These cases demonstrate how Dr. Kerksick is able to definitively diagnose and manage

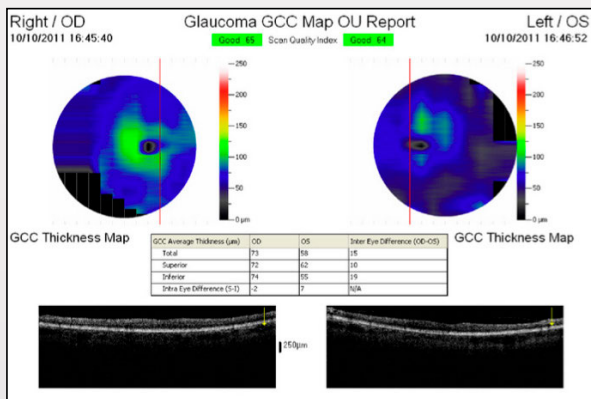
Fundus photos:



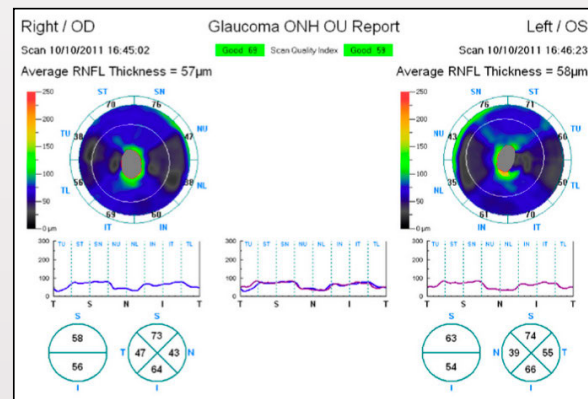
Visual fields:



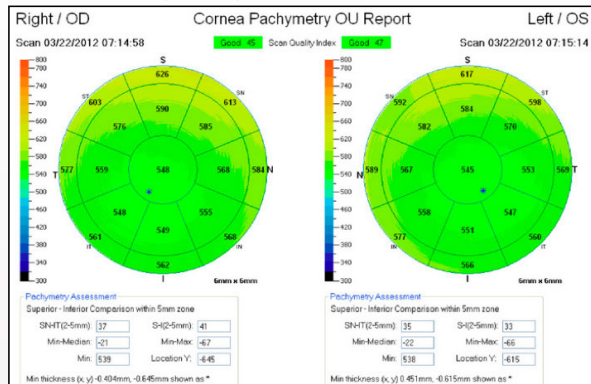
GCC OCT scans:



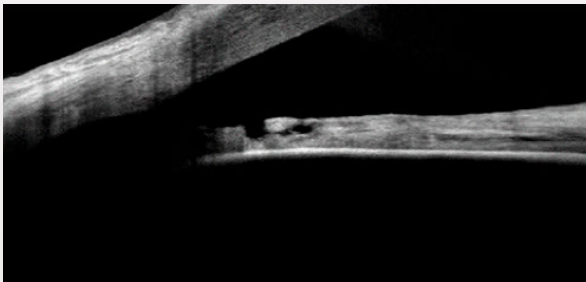
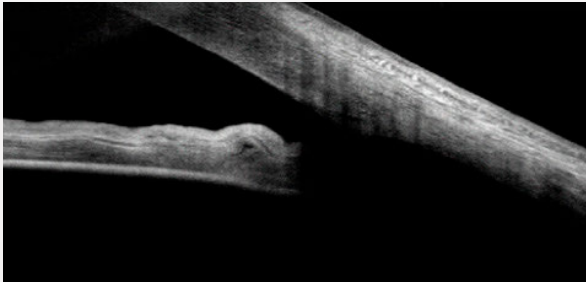
ONH OCT scans:



## Corneal pachymetry via OCT:



## Angle OCT imaging:



who have family coming from out of town and they will bring in their family members for the scan to see if the instrument flags them for anything." Likewise, some neighboring optometrists have also referred patients to her practice for an OCT scan.

She continues, "helped in patient co-management as well. Our retinal specialists like

various ocular diseases in her office without referring the patients out for specialty care.

## What are you missing without OCT technology?

"If you don't have an OCT system in your practice, you could be missing a lot of retinal conditions which can

include early epiretinal membrane,

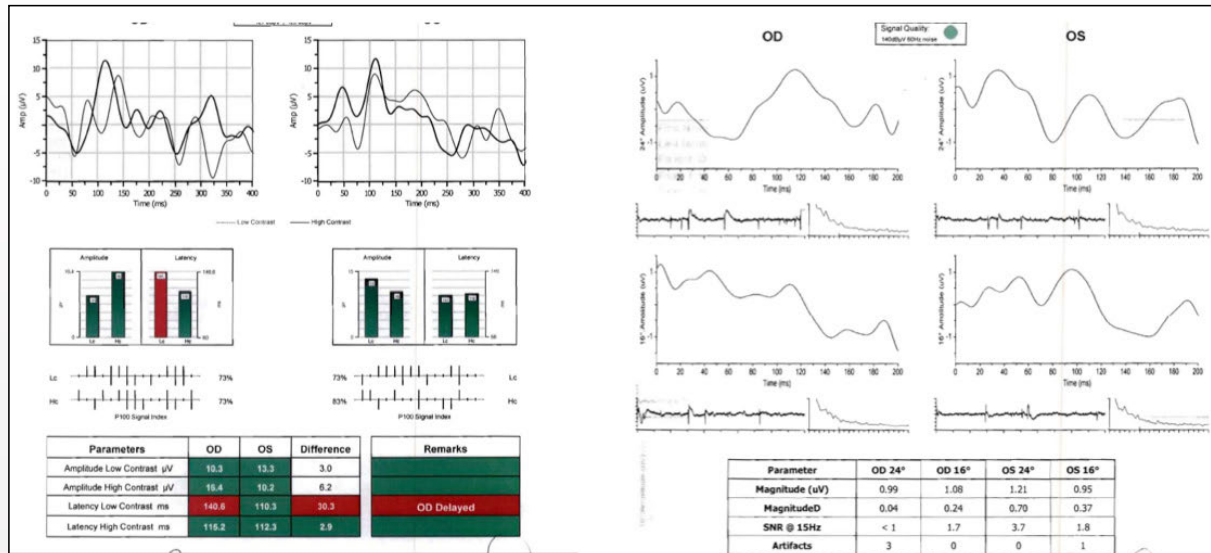
macular holes, vitreoretinal separation, just to name a few,"

Dr. Kerksick emphasizes. For those practices that say "I don't see those types of patients, I challenge them to prove me wrong. Use the instrument for six months and then say that."

## How does the OCT system benefit the practice?

Since acquiring the OCT, Dr. Kerksick has seen a significant rise in patient referrals for this service. "There will be patients

VEP to assess visual function:



it because we don't have to refer every little thing to them. I can give them access to a patient's scan through our image management system (HIPAA compliant and secure) and let them decide if we need to send them over or continue to monitor on our own. There is no question that the OCT has elevated our level of expertise. Patients like it too because we refer when needed and rarely have to tell a patient I'm sending you to retina for a second opinion. Most of the time, if we need to make a referral, it's because ophthalmological care is warranted."

### Concluding remarks:

"OCT is a worthwhile purchase and one of the best things you can do to improve your practice. If there was only one instrument I could have for my practice, I would want it to be the OCT system." - Kelly Kerksick, OD