

California Continues to Provide Clinical Value and Enhanced Patient Care



Practice Information: Thallemer Eye Care Associates, Warsaw, Indiana

Optometrist: Mitch Reinholt, OD

Device: *California*

Reasons for Purchase: Clinical value & quality of care, practice efficiency, patient education, disease documentation and management

In March 2020, the pandemic abruptly brought nationwide apprehension and uncertainty. Medical practitioners desperately endeavored to navigate increased safety protocols while continuing to provide optimal care for their patients. Consequently, forecasters began to observe that reliance on medical technological solutions that can support safer exam scenarios would dramatically increase. During this challenging transition, Mitch Reinholt, OD discovered that one of his favorite diagnostic tools, became more valuable than ever.

Expedited exam time and reduced patient exposure

In April he found himself with a bare bones staff, providing some telemedical visits, but ultimately bringing patients in and doing most of the exams on his own. He found that his *California* helped to expedite exams and reduce patient exposure and time in the office. *California*, like all **optomap** ultra-widefield retinal imaging devices, captures over 200 degrees of the retina in 1/2 second. It provides a dynamic image that can be enlarged and manipulated to see into the layers,

and autofluorescence to assess function, as well. Reinholt explained that he could capture the image quickly, then withdraw to review it and evaluate if further diagnostics were required.

Clinical value and unmatched diagnostic information

Reinholt had first used the technology as an Associate Instructor while finishing his studies in optometry at Indiana University. "I put the **optomap** technology at the top of my wish list as soon as I graduated. It took a few years to justify the purchase,

The optomap device gives me great peace of mind that I am not missing any issues. I really feel it expedites the whole process, making it more efficient and safer for all involved.

Dr. Reinholt on his *California* device



but it was completely worth it. All the other devices we considered were mostly posterior pole focused. With **optomap** the ability to see so far beyond that was obviously striking. It is a great clinical tool for both the doctor and the patient.”

Reinholt acquired his *California* device in 2019 primarily for clinical value and the ability to get unmatched retinal information, but also because the ease and speed of acquisition expedited the exam process and impressed his patients. “There is a tremendous WOW factor with this technology. I love to see the expression on my patients’ faces when they see their own eyeball. It really adds to the value of their exam being able to talk them through their own anatomy instead of me trying to describe a disease process or relying on a stock photo.”

He elaborated that the technology further streamlines the exam process by enabling him to quickly image children and other difficult to examine populations. “Often kids can be pretty wriggly, and you don’t get great fundus views when you are blinding them with white light. But with **optomap** there is only a fraction of a second of light and a much more comprehensive view.”

He emphasizes that in the short time that he has had the technology it quickly established its clinical value by capturing several pathologies that he feels might have been otherwise undetected such as far peripheral retinal holes, lattice, and white without pressure. He also recounts an instance when he imaged a long-time patient and discovered a large, peripheral operculated hole that had gone undiscovered previously because the patient had always refused to be dilated.

Embracing a new normal

Contemplating the uncertainties of the future as a new normal evolves, Reinholt is adamant that **optomap** technology will be essential to the function of his practice. “Now we are concerned with the number of patients in the office at a time, and in minimizing the amount of time each patient has to be there,” says Reinholt. “I definitely plan on imaging everyone. This way I can review the information thoroughly prior to examining the patient.” He adds that the dynamic and comprehensive image gives him incomparable amounts of information to help direct the rest of the exam. He notes that prior to the pandemic he had an 83% acceptance rate for **optomap** screening exams and that his

patients were always happy to see their image. Going forward he underscores that he will image every patient and that now, more than ever, they appreciate limiting extended close exposure in the traditional exam. “The **optomap** device gives me great peace of mind that I am not missing any issues. I really feel it expedites the whole process, making it more efficient and safer for all involved.”



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