



## Setting a New Standard of Care with OCTA

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For years our private practice, Enhanced Eye Care in Duncansville, Pennsylvania, used Optovue's iVue 80 OCT. Thanks to Optovue's great trade-up program, we transitioned to the AngioVue OCTA to enhance our patient care.

The AngioVue offers great technology with speed and efficacy. While the iVue could do 26,000 scans a second, the AngioVue completes 70,000 scans a second. I believe you can expand patient care and private practice revenue with the AngioVue OCT Angiography. It's particularly useful in the early detection of abnormal retinal vessels in patients with diabetes, glaucoma or ocular hypertension, and advanced macular degeneration (AMD). It enables visualization of retinal vasculature so we can diagnose early signs of retinal disease and brings suspicious pictures of macular degeneration and diabetic changes to the forefront. Its B-scan can pick up diabetes early on, which I think is its most powerful tool. Because diabetes and macular degeneration are vascular diseases, you need to look at the capillaries to detect early changes.

### How We Use It

Many patients receive a B-scan OCT, a ganglion cell complex (GCC) analysis, and an angiogram during a regular eye exam. The AngioWellness Report can point out abnormalities and vessel density in patients' eyes. This report can flag me to follow an AMD patient more closely based on the vessel density I see in the scan. We may dilate a patient's eyes and not see any abnormalities. However, the AngioVue can still pick up diabetes and identify the earliest microscopic changes that are undetectable at the fundus exam level.

Traditionally, when assessing patients for diabetic retinopathy with B scan OCTs, we would assume the capillaries were intact if nothing was seen on the scan. The beauty of AngioAnalytics is that I have numbers to evaluate the health and status of the retinal capillaries and check the progression over time. OCT Angiography with easy-to-read scans can measure retinal vessel densities and the foveal avascular zone to give quantitative analysis. For those who thought OCT Angiography would be beneficial in glaucoma, we can run a change analysis on glaucoma patients to compare scans from year to year to see how vessel density is holding up and how capillaries are being damaged.

### Benefits of OCTA

Our practice has a great balance of wellness and medical checkups, and we have seen a 60% capture rate in our comprehensive eye exams. We offer two options on our patient forms: an Optomap and Wellness OCT for \$50 and an Optomap, Wellness OCT & OCT-A (OCT Angiography) for \$70. The anchor to our wellness program right now is OCT Angiography. Our staff explains to patients that OCTA offers a complete image behind the eye, and it only takes about four minutes to acquire the images with no pain or drops.

I previously felt that I wasn't serving patients with diabetes and AMD at the highest level. Now, I am doing more for them. Using vascular imaging in diagnosing, treating, and managing ocular disease has been a great asset in our patient care. The key is to educate your staff and patients about getting started with OCT Angiography in your practice.

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Dr. Greg Caldwell, OD, practices at Enhanced Eye Care in Duncansville, PA. He is a 1995 graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He completed a one-year residency in primary care and ocular disease at the Eye Institute of Philadelphia, PA. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and Board Certified by the American Board of Optometry. On top of working with Doctors of Optometry as an ocular disease consultant, he is a well-respected lecturer. He lectures several times throughout the year to his colleagues. He has given over 300 lectures in numerous US cities and in over 12 countries. Dr. Caldwell has been a participant in multiple FDA investigations. He is a current member and past President of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA).

