

Pictor Imager Fits into the Lives of Busy Practitioners

By **J. James Thimons, OD, FAAO** Volk's Pictor digital imaging device delivers high-resolution images of the retinal and external eye structures in any setting.

Diagnostic imaging has expanded dramatically over the last decade in regards to accurately diagnosing and documenting a multitude of disease states. Volk Optical, Inc.'s new handheld fundus system, Pictor, is a great example of this rapidly emerging trend.

MOBILITY

The Pictor unit is a lightweight, handheld retina and anterior segment camera that allows clinicians both portability and ease-of-use at a level that was

unheard of 10 years ago. It's modeled after the monocular indirect ophthalmoscope and is slightly larger in size but very well constructed and durable. The camera system is ideal for the busy multi-site practice that does not want to invest in floor-based systems or for the practice that staffs nursing homes, retirement centers, or other off-site facilities.

One convenient aspect of the device is its light metal carrying case, which has internal space to hold the equipment firmly and allows for the clinician to have an organized area to work from. Another handy feature is that when clinical care is provided in a remote setting, practitioners can come back to the office and use the USB module to download information to the main frame for EHR, entering the photographs into the patient's records in a timely fashion.

QUALITY IMAGES

The Pictor's image quality is at a level that is acceptable for both diagnostic and therapeutic intervention and its user-friendliness is remarkable relative to the fixed systems that require both a large footplate in the office and being limited to a single location.

Pictor can also provide stereo images when focused from both sides of the widely dilated pupil. Personally, I found there was an initial learning curve, but once I was able to find the right positioning for the opposite eye, my practice started to produce images that could subsequently be merged and viewed with a stereo viewer, which offers ideal optic nerve assessment in patients with glaucoma.

FUNDUS PHOTOGRAPHY

The device also offers the ability to offer fundus photography for patients who wish to have it done on a fee-for-service basis. We have not

implemented that model in our practice, but at the primary care level, I do believe this would be a valuable asset and certainly rapidly offset the cost of the system over the course of several months.

The idea of reducing size and making equipment portable is the future of diagnostic technology and Pictor has begun that process in an effective way using the company's extensive experience with imaging systems. **OO**

J. James Thimons, an optometrist at Ophthalmic Consultants of Connecticut, is an Adjunct Clinical Professor at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

COMMENTS FROM THE DOCS

"The Pictor is fantastic in terms of portability. It is small, lightweight, and comes in a sturdy carrying case making it very easy to transport. I am able to obtain retinal imaging on virtually any patient, no matter what position the patient is in."

—Jeffrey D. Wine OD, FAAO, Eyes On Site PLLC, Chandler, AZ

"I bought the camera three weeks ago and already can say with confidence that it is the best investment I have made for my mobile practice. The ease of use, the resolution of the image, and the software it uses is by far the best in the market of portable retinal cameras."

—Jose Santos, OD, Santos Eye Clinic, Tampa, FL



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WHERE TO FIND IT:
www.mercoframes.net