The Office MVP

How the OPD-Scan III became one doctor's MVP in the game of vision testing

BY DON TEIG, OD, FAAO

After nearly 40 years as founder and senior partner of Ridgefield Family Eyecare of Ridgefield, Conn., I left New England 2 years ago for the balmy sunshine of Hollywood, Fla. It wasn't long before I set out to fulfill a career-long goal of creating a national organization of trained optometric professionals to serve the critical and unique visual needs of the athletic population.

The organization, High Performance Vision Associates, aims to improve the visual-neurocognitive motor skills of athletes and other individuals whose careers or hobbies demand visual excellence.

Marco's OPD-Scan III plays an integral — even vital — role in helping our network of 40 optometrists to fulfill this mission.

High-profile Patients

We have leveraged the cutting-edge technology of the OPD-Scan III to evaluate more than 500 athletes in auto racing, soccer, golf, and other sports. During the past 18 months, we've worked with Hendrick MotorSports (NASCAR), Major League Soccer, the LPGA Golf Tour, and I.M.G. Sports Academy in Bradenton, Fla., among other clients.

Personally, I've served as a vision consultant to 10 Major League Baseball teams, including the New York Yankees; several NBA basketball teams, including the New York Knicks; the men's and women's professional golf tours; multiple Olympic teams; and several professional football and hockey teams, as well as the Joffrey Ballet.

OPD-Scan III Delivers

The OPD-Scan III is truly cutting-edge technology. It provides a wealth of information 'under one roof' with what I consider to be astounding accuracy. The OPD-Scan III has numerous and invaluable features and capabilities, including: automatic refraction, keratometry, placido disc topography; integrated wavefront aberrometry; pupillometry; retro and anterior photographic imaging. From all this data acquired in mere seconds, we are able to discern lenticular residual astigmatism; angle kappa; mesopic/photopic pupil size; the corneal refractive power map; wavefront optimized RX for mesopic and photopic conditions and pathology affecting the optical pathway.

Our member optometrists have fully embraced the OPD-Scan III and have made it an integral part of their practices.

Our network chose the OPD-Scan III over other instruments offering similar testing functions because none of the other instruments provide the same level of versatility, or, for that matter, the precision, that we require for evaluating athletes, for whom the ability to see "beyond normal" is a high priority.

The essential and understandable data we derive from our OPD-Scan III allows us to differentiate between visual competency changes that take place when an athlete competes in photopic daylight conditions versus mesopic night competition. Indeed, the data we've gathered with the OPD-Scan III has revealed some profound differences in contrast sensitivity — for better and worse — when lighting and pupil size vary with environmental conditions. The OPD-Scan III has the unique ability to mimic sight as it is influenced by the degree of brightness or dimness. The instrument can simulate extreme lighting conditions and calculate an athlete's seeing potential in various lighting conditions.

The OPD-Scan III has been invaluable to our team when traveling to sports venues throughout the country. Its portability allows us to quickly and easily assess not only an athlete's visual acuity and refractive status, but also critical visual issues such as low- and high-order aberrations on a single axis, and refractive status influenced by pupil size while the athlete competes under day or night lighting conditions.

Many of the athletes we've evaluated with the OPD-Scan III have been impressed by the sophisticated capabilities of the instrument, especially when it comes to evaluating their sight to provide visual excellence. Elite athletes must see objects (baseballs, soccer balls, moguls on the ski slopes, and so on) — often at very high and variable speeds — with the utmost detail. They compete under conditions that require quick and accurate reactions to moving objects, far beyond what "mere mortals" require in the everyday world.

Our member optometrists have fully embraced the OPD-Scan III and have made it an integral part of their practices. Many have expressed to me how much they appreciate the instrument's versatility, which ultimately contributes to their practice's profitability. Indeed, one doctor said, "The more sophisticated the results, the better I can prescribe a higher quality end product."

With the advent of digital spectacle lens designs and more sophisticated contact lens materials, it is paramount to have the most precise vision-measuring technology that will put the doctor on the right track to prescribing lenses that will provide the highest level of clarity for patients. This translates to happy patients who are willing to pay premium prices to see as well as is humanly possible.

Why I Recommend the OPD-Scan III

I could cite any number of reasons to recommend the OPD-Scan III, but here are my top four:

1 Refractive Status

The instrument's accuracy in determining refractive status, especially when astigmatic correction is considered, is unparalleled. The ultra-refined optics of the OPD-Scan III result in pinpoint-accurate measuring capabilities. These are especially valuable when attempting to fine-tune astigmatic power and axis reproducibility. Our experience with the OPD-Scan III consistently compares favorably to other instruments claiming to duplicate these results.

2 Comprehensive Data Acquisition

The OPD-Scan III provides a wealth of useful visual data "under one roof." Often, it takes more than one device to measure and analyze refractive status, corneal topography, wavefront patterns, and internal visual distortions, especially if you seek impeccable precision. No instrument is perfect, but in my opinion, the OPD-Scan III is reliably accurate more often than any of the competing instruments I have evaluated.

3 Day and Night Visual Assessment

The OPD-Scan III delivers a unique ability to compare visual performance under photopic and mesopic conditions. This is beneficial to all practices because our patients must see at an optimum level throughout their busy lives — day and night. Driving alone demands this degree of performance.

4 High-precision Corneal Analysis

The precision with which the OPD-Scan III analyzes corneal topography — measuring 11,880 corneal data points and displaying 2,520 wavefront data points — is far better than competing systems. The fact is that the more corneal points you can measure, and the more wavefront mapping accuracy, the better able we are to problem-solve visual distortions that can negatively impact the way our patients see. In other words, in this case, more is definitely better.

OPD-Scan III

Game-changing Technology

At the end of the game, you don't need to treat a high volume of pro athletes, or even weekend warriors, to realize the benefits of this cutting-edge technology. Marco's OPD-Scan III can help you compete — and succeed — at the highest levels of optometric practice.

Dr. Teig is founder and medical director of High Performance Vision Associates in Hollywood, Fla. He is also the author of *"High Performance Vision — An Athlete's Guide To Keeping Your Eyes On The Ball!"*

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