

2019 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Applications and Strategies for Custom and Specialty Contact Lenses

This course describes the indications and applications of specialty contact lenses. Current designs from various manufacturers will be discussed, as well as how to determine the best contact lens modality for a patient in the context of health conditions, refractive status, and lifestyle. Basics of fitting and management for each modality will be discussed, with example scenarios for practice analyzing the needs of patients.

Big Foot, Loch Ness, Easter Bunny and other Optical Myths

Don't operate on what your optical mommas and papas taught you. We will dispel the old fashioned and out-of-date beliefs in ophthalmic optics. Topics include lens materials, progressive lens designs, analog vs. digital lenses, fitting techniques, optical standards and much more...

CL Selection & Patient Education

Soft lenses, RGPs, Daily disposables, Bi-weekly disposables, Monthly planned replacement, how do you decide on the most suitable modality for your patient. This course will discuss the many factors to consider when selecting the most suitable contact lens option for your patient. Lifestyle - including occupation, hobbies and interests, medical and ocular history, medications currently being used by your patient, and the expectations and needs of your patient from contact lenses, all need to be factored into the decision making process. Then, which design will be best based on Rx, lifestyle, needs and visual demands of the patient - single vision or multi-focal, spherical or toric? The program will then focus on patient education to ensure your patients are well informed and educated to be a successful, healthy, and compliant contact lens wearers. Tried and tested techniques for the entire fitting process will be discussed, in detail, from initial consultation between the optician and patient / parent, to the finalized Rx. The tools to establish yourself as a premium contact lens service provider will be presented. Not only to ensure your patient begins their contact lens wearing experience being well prepared and informed, but also hopefully a compliant one in terms of following your recommendations. Ultimately, we ECPs can only do so much to ensure compliance and promote healthy eye care practices; therefore, we must always do our best to make sure the patient is educated and informed.

Color Vision - Do You See What I See?

Humans can detect up to 7,000,000 colors. However, everyone does not perceive colors the same. Opticians play an important role in helping color deficient patients achieve a better quality of life by enhancing differences in colors. We will explore the process of seeing in color, the importance color vision plays in our daily lives and ophthalmic lens filters that can improve the quality of life for color deficient patients.

Contact Lenses and Controlling Myopia Progression

This program will begin with a review of myopia and the anatomy and physiology of a myopic eye; in essence, what makes the eye myopic. "Why are my child's eyes continually getting worse, and what can I do to stop this?" A knowledgeable and well-informed optician faced with such questions, who can present options for the parent to discuss with the doctor, can take that relationship between patient and optician to a higher level. A whole new level of respect is earned; the benefits of working with an educated optician becomes more apparent. Next, the program will discuss eye health risks associated with high myopia. The majority of the program will be focused on contact lens options that have been tried and tested to attempt to slow down myopia progression, and their effectiveness, including SV soft lenses, SV RGP lenses, soft multi-focal lenses, and orthokeratology.

Dispelling the Myth; Prism is a Four Letter Word

Prism is not a four letter word. It is the foundation of ophthalmic optics and spectacle lens design. We will dispel the myth that prism is difficult, simplify prism calculation, explore prism thinning in progressive lenses and more.

Dog Guides

This two hour lecture is intended for experienced ophthalmic professionals or those wishing to expand the scope of their professional knowledge. As a rule, service dogs are allowed to go anywhere that the general public goes. That includes any privately owned businesses that serve the public such as restaurants, hotels, and professional offices including optical dispensaries. It is essential that all ophthalmic professionals have an in-depth working knowledge of how service animals are prepared for their job, their capabilities, and the applicable Federal laws since violators of the ADA can be required to pay money damages and penalties. Because optical professionals work in a public venue daily they *must* fully understand the scope of service dogs and how to interact with both handlers and dogs. This course will detail service dog training, applications, the law, and discuss working dogs used in other specialties.

Managing Prism & Imbalance – Part 1

Part 1 of this 2 part program will begin with a review of basic ophthalmic lens construction and how it connects to the subject of prism. Terminology and prism notation will be discussed, in addition to refractive principles, dispersion, and associated topics. The importance of using accurate data when ordering lenses, and how the frame fitting angles can affect lens performance, will be stressed. The Prentice Rule will be reviewed, together with the prism equation. Eye conditions requiring prescribed prism such as phorias, tropias, diplopia, and scotomas due to neurological trauma, to name a few, will be presented. The principles of handling prescribed prism such as compounding, cancelling, resolving, and splitting prism will be included. Why is AR strongly recommended when using prescribed prism? Finally, a detailed explanation of how to verify prism will be discussed.

Managing Prism & Imbalance – Part 2

Part 2 of this 2 part program will cover how unwanted prism is related to vertical imbalance. Definition of Anisometropia and Antimetropia; at what point are these conditions problematic? How to determine / anticipate a potential imbalance issue will be discussed, together with methods available to correct for vertical imbalance. The program will include examples in handling advanced optical calculations for: * Power in oblique meridians * Slab off power - how to verify * How to use the different methods available to manage vertical imbalance * Ordering yoked prism - what is yoked prism and why do we order it?

Presbyopia Overview

This two hour advanced technical lecture is intended for experienced ophthalmic professionals or those wishing to expand the scope of their professional knowledge. The evaluation and management of presbyopia are important because significant functional deficits can occur when the condition is left untreated. Undercorrected or uncorrected presbyopia can cause significant visual disability and have a negative impact on the patient's quality of life. Gaining an understanding of the patient's specific vocational and avocational visual requirements helps the optician recommend the method most appropriate for enhancing visual performance.

Scleral Contact Lenses for Beginners

This one-hour course will cover several common challenges faced by the practitioner prescribing scleral lenses, and present strategies to optimize fitting success. The session will cover handling tips, fitting strategies, indications for use, and billing and coding pointers. The course will conclude with advanced clinical pearls and a focused question and answer session.

Strabismus

This advanced -level, two-hour presentation is advantageous to the student/apprentice optician, the more advanced optician, or those wishing to expand the scope of their professional knowledge. Strabismus (squint) and amblyopia are common conditions in childhood, with strabismus affecting about 5% of five year olds of whom 60% have eso-deviations and 20% exo-deviations. Amblyopia has an estimated prevalence in childhood of 1.2% to 4.4% depending on the defining criteria. The overall objective of this educational session is to describe strabismus and treatment procedures used in correction.