



The Three-Legged Stool

Invest in the World's Most Advanced Technology

“For our team in Northern Colorado, investing in the world’s most advanced technology means putting patient outcomes at the center of every decision. Our surgery center is equipped with the newest phaco machine, allowing us to deliver safe, consistent, high-quality surgical experiences for your cataract patients. We’re proud that every patient you send to us receives the benefits of the same advanced technology used throughout Vance Thompson Vision’s surgical network.”

- Cullen Ryburn, MD, Northern Colorado

Patient Experience

“Very professional, thorough & attentive. All questions answered. Scheduled my surgery & any subsequent appointments to other providers

to ensure a continuum of care. The staff is very friendly! The place was easy to find.”

- Omaha Patient, Google Review

Always Do the Right Thing

“Recently in our Fargo clinic, a patient came to us with keratoconus that had already reduced his vision by three lines in one eye. Because timely treatment is crucial to preserving sight, our team moved quickly, even when insurance denied the prior authorization and then denied the appeal. We pursued an external review, and a third-party ultimately ruled in the patient’s favor, ensuring his treatment is now fully covered. Advocacy like this is part of our commitment to always do what’s right for our patients.”

- Nick Risbrudt, OD, West Fargo, ND

CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Advancing Care Through Research

Research is at the heart of how we advance patient care. Our team recently contributed to clinical trials leading to FDA approval of two new intraocular lenses—RayOne EMV Toric and FINEVISION HP—and Epi-On Corneal Crosslinking for keratoconus. These innovations expand personalized options for your patients and mark exciting progress in treatment technology.



Scan to Visit the Research Page on the OD Portal

vancethompsonvision.com/od/research

Share Your Feedback

CE Events

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on our continuing education events by **scanning the QR code**. Your input will guide how we plan future programs.



surveymonkey.com/r/VTVCE

Save the Date

Join us for any or all of our upcoming educational events, bringing you the latest insights and innovations in eye care. Mark your calendars and join us in these enriching professional development opportunities.



Scan to Learn More
vancethompsonvision.com/od/continuing-education

Tech Training (Virtual)

Jan. 14 - Apr. 1, 2026
Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 PM CT

Sioux Falls Symposium

Friday, Feb. 6, 2026

Billings Galentine's Day "Cookies and Cabernet"

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Billing & Coding Updates with Kirk Mack, COMT, COE, CPC, CPMA (Virtual)

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026 from 12:20 – 1:30 PM CT

Alexandria Evening of Education

Wednesday, Apr. 22, 2026




Online Scheduling Now Available for Cataract and Refractive Appointments

You can now schedule evaluations for new cataract, LASIK, PRK, ICL, and RLE patients directly through our website:

vancethompsonvision.com/schedule-online.

Simply select the location you'd like to schedule at. Please continue to fax patient notes and demographics as usual. Please indicate if the patient is already scheduled online.



Scan to Schedule Online
vancethompsonvision.com/schedule-online

Article Review

Bringing Ophthalmic Clinical Trials Into the 21st Century: A Short Explainer

Maya Samman, Ram Yalamanchili, & Mark R. Barakat

Reviewed by Vance Thompson, MD

“The complexity of clinical trials has significantly increased with inefficient processes, new regulatory guidelines leading to more intricate protocols, and the challenge of addressing unmet medical needs. These trends create operational bottlenecks, significantly burdening sites and their Clinical Research Coordinators (CRCs). With mounting administrative tasks, CRCs have less time for direct patient engagement, a critical aspect of their role. As a result, trial length has increased, and success rates remain low. To reduce this operational overload, innovative solutions to boost efficiency and streamline workflow are critical for clinical trials in the 21st century; Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significant potential to achieve this.”



Scan to Read Full Article
tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17469899.2025.2503792



Scan to Read Dr. Thompson's Review



Deborah Gess Ristvedt, DO

Alexandria, MN

Dr. Deborah Gess Ristvedt is a third-generation, board certified ophthalmologist who leads our Alexandria, MN location. She's currently excited about the opportunities to improve patient care through interventional glaucoma (IG) treatments, which allow patients to receive personalized care like never before. This advancement adds to what she feels is already a loving and supportive culture at Vance Thompson Vision. A culture of caring individuals who take the time to wait, listen, explain, and walk each patient through their journey.

If she could be an eye care instrument, Dr. Ristvedt says she would be a trifocal lens because she would be able to see the big picture while also being able to zoom in and catch the little details. She loves the notion of bringing that into her everyday life.



Samantha Rivet, OD

Sioux Falls, SD & South Sioux City, NE

Dr. Samantha Rivet is a board-certified optometrist who specializes in LASIK, cataract, cornea, glaucoma, and vision research. A current advancement in ophthalmology that she's excited about is Epi-On for corneal cross-linking. She says what separates Vance Thompson Vision from other clinics is the dedication to patient education and personalization.

If she were an eye care instrument, she says she would be the eye model because she believes it's one of the most useful tools for educating patients. Not only is education her favorite aspect of the job, she believes it's fundamental in leading to satisfied patients.

Clinic Corner

Interventional Glaucoma: A Proactive Approach to Glaucoma Treatment

Deborah Gess Ristvedt, DO

Interventional glaucoma is, at its core, a mindset — a shift in how we approach both the disease and the patient experience. Instead of relying solely on traditional, medication-heavy strategies, we are reframing glaucoma care to focus on earlier, targeted interventions. This perspective acknowledges that glaucoma is a progressive disease that benefits from proactive, rather than reactive, treatment.

One of the most meaningful changes in this mindset

is recognizing selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) as first-line therapy. By introducing SLT earlier in the disease process, we can often reduce or even eliminate the need for daily drops. Topical medications place a significant burden on patients, both in terms of cost and the challenge of remembering to take them consistently. By moving away from a drop-dependent model, we are working to improve quality of life while simultaneously improving long-term disease outcomes.

Practice Management Corner

Making Co-Management Clear: A Guide to Post-Op Care & Billing

Cataract & Refractive Cataract Surgery Post-Op Care:

Days 1–90:

This period is designated for medical postoperative care and is billed to the patient's medical insurance.

Days 91–180:

If the patient has elected a refractive lens (toric, multifocal, Light Adjustable Lens), this period covers refractive postoperative care, which is out-of-pocket for the patient.

We walk each patient through a clear explanation of this using our “Green and Yellow” form:

Green = medical aftercare (billable to medical insurance)

Yellow = refractive aftercare (not billable to medical insurance)



Scan to Watch a Video Explaining the Green & Yellow Forms

vancethompsonvision.com/od/resources/billing-and-information



Scan to Watch Our On-Demand Collaborative Care Webinar

youtube.com/watch?v=DaGYgkfoRdc