VANCE THOMPSON VISION

CLINIC NEWSLETTER

## Epioxa

Epioxa is the first FDA-approved epithelium-on corneal cross-linking (CXL) therapy for keratoconus, marking a significant step forward in stabilization treatment. Unlike traditional CXL, which requires mechanically removing the corneal epithelium, the Epioxa procedure leaves the protective outer layer intact. The treatment uses a unique riboflavin formulation and supplemental oxygen delivered via Boost Goggles to stiffen the cornea and halt disease progression. This non-invasive, epithelium-intact approach is designed to improve patient comfort, reduce healing time, and minimize the risks associated with the older “epi-off” method. Vance Thompson Vision is proud to have been involved in the research trials that led to Epioxa’s FDA approval in October 2025.

VANCE THOMPSON VISION



# Summer 2026



# The Three-Legged Stool

### Invest in the World’s Most Advanced Technology

WaveLight Plus represents the most advanced evolution in personalized laser vision correction because it moves beyond simply treating a glasses prescription and instead seeks to optimize the entire optical system of the eye. By using advanced ray-tracing technology and an individualized digital model of each patient’s eye, the platform analyzes an extraordinary amount of visual and anatomical data to create a highly customized treatment designed not only to improve how patients see on the eye chart, but how they experience vision in the real world. By addressing subtle optical imperfections and higher-order aberrations that can affect contrast sensitivity, night vision, and visual sharpness, WaveLight Plus has the potential to deliver a clearer, more natural quality of vision uniquely tailored to each patient. It reflects the continuing evolution of refractive surgery from simply correcting refractive error to truly personalizing visual performance. And it was an honor for us to be one of the FDA investigative sites.

*- Vance Thompson, MD - Sioux Falls, SD*

### Patient Experience

I can’t say enough good things about my experience at Vance Thompson Vision in West Fargo, ND. Everyone was so friendly and professional from the time I walked in the building to the time I left. The doctors treated me so kindly and explained the procedures that they were doing, as well as the staff. I was totally impressed and NOW I can see clearly again. Thank you!

*- West Fargo Patient*

### Always Do the Right Thing

We know you want the best for your patients, and our See & Do program is built to deliver just that. Doing the right thing means making their experience with us as easy as possible, which is why we constantly study and refine our process with benefits like timely scheduling and hotel discounts.

## Save the Date

Join us for any — or all — of our upcoming educational events, designed to bring you the latest insights and innovations in eye care. Mark your calendars and take advantage of these enriching professional development opportunities.

**South Sioux City Evening of Education**
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026

**Fargo Symposium**
Friday, Sept. 25, 2026

**Montana Symposium**
Friday, Sept. 25, 2026

**Omaha Symposium**
Friday, Oct. 23, 2026

**Sioux Falls Symposium**
Friday, Feb. 26, 2027

**Find any and all upcoming events on the OD Portal**

tinyurl.com/3npe3y3d

# Article Review

## Ophthalmologist and Optometrist Comanagement Model for Glaucoma: Outcomes from a Single Tertiary Care Health Center

**Review by Lorraine Provencher, MD - Omaha, NE**

This retrospective study, "Ophthalmologist and Optometrist Comanagement Model for Glaucoma: Outcomes from a Single Tertiary Care Health Center," published by Ophthalmology Glaucoma, validates the co-management model many of us are already building. When I partner with well-trained optometrists, I can safely transition stable glaucoma and glaucoma suspect patients without compromising outcomes. What stands out in this data is that over 5 years, patients remained remarkably stable across IOP, visual fields, and OCT. Only a small proportion (~17%) required escalation, and when they did, they were appropriately identified and referred back without delay or harm. For me, this reinforces that co-management isn't about giving up control or passing the buck — it's about collaborating thoughtfully. With clear protocols and strong communication, it allows me to focus my time and expertise on higher-risk, surgical, or progressing patients, while still maintaining confidence that stable patients are being managed well. In the setting of increasing demand and limited specialist access, this kind of team-based approach feels less optional and more essential to delivering high-quality glaucoma care.



**Scan to Read Full Article**
tinyurl.com/mshxvmc9

# Noteworthy

## Online Referring Now Available

You can now refer patients directly through our OD Portal: vancethompsonvision.com/od. **No login needed!**

Download and complete the referral form, or if you prefer, you can send your clinic notes and patient demographics. You will then upload it, along with the patient's medical insurance information and testing, conveniently through the online referral link.

You may also continue to call our office or fax referrals. Choose whichever option is most convenient for your workflow.

**For a better patient experience, please be sure to share patient information and medical insurance.**

# Clinic Corner

## Keratoconus: The Expanding Toolkit — Epioxa and CTAK

**Brent Kramer, MD - Sioux Falls, SD & Alexandria, MN**

For the last decade, keratoconus management has been a two-step conversation: halt progression with cross-linking, then optimize vision with specialty lenses. Two recent additions are changing that conversation in meaningful ways. Epioxa — Glaukos' FDA-approved epithelium-on, oxygen-enriched cross-linking — became commercially available in early 2026 and offers a less invasive alternative to traditional epi-off CXL, with a more comfortable recovery and a strong Phase 3 safety and efficacy profile. Corneal Tissue Addition Keratoplasty (CTAK) expands what we can offer in moderate-to-severe keratoconus — from the scleral lens wearer who wants out of, or less dependent on, their lens, all the way to the patient who would otherwise be facing a penetrating keratoplasty. Together, they let us intervene earlier, less invasively, and with better long-term options preserved.

**Scan to Read Full Article**
tinyurl.com/zen3yjzt

# Doctor Spotlight



## Cullen Ryburn, MD

Northern Colorado

Dr. Cullen Ryburn is passionate about advancements in multifocal lens technology and how they allow for more personalized vision solutions with fewer compromises for patients.

He values creating a patient experience centered on education, communication, and trust so patients feel informed and supported every step of the way. Outside the clinic, Dr. Ryburn enjoys podcasts like The Daily and hopes to one day explore the coast of Maine with his wife, Katelyn.



## Kelly Sieps, OD

South Sioux City, NE

Dr. Kelly Sieps is especially excited about new glaucoma treatment options that help reduce patients' dependence on eye drops while improving long-term comfort and quality of life.

She is passionate about making every patient feel cared for, educated, and confident throughout their surgical journey. An avid reader and lifelong learner,
Dr. Sieps also shared that if she could have any superpower, it would be teleportation, mainly to spend less time in airports and more time exploring new places.

# 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 post-op care and is billed to the patient's medical insurance.

**Days 91–180:**
If the patient has elected an advanced lens, this period covers refractive post-op care, which is paid out-of-pocket by the patient.

**Light Adjustable Lens:** Due to the refractive work associated with the lens adjustments and lock-in process, the refractive aftercare period runs from days 1–180.

We walk each patient through a clear explanation of this using our **Green & Yellow** form:

**Green** = medical aftercare (billable to medical insurance)

**Yellow** = refractive aftercare (not billable to medical insurance)

**Scan to Watch the Green & Yellow Form Explanation**
tinyurl.com/3knnyn5t

## Continuing Education

**Webinars**

Tech training, symposia series, co-management, we've got it all.

**Scan to View On-Demand Webinars**
tinyurl.com/5bba7rp5