

CLINIC NEWSLETTER

How are we doing?

We want your feedback! Help us provide better service for you and your patients by taking our survey:



surveymonkey.com/r/VTV2024





The Three-Legged Stool

Do the Right Thing

In a recent case, one of our patients experienced vision changes after a head injury. The clinic manager in Alexandria exemplified exceptional care by planning ahead, advising the patient to bring a driver, remain NPO, and prepare for the possibility of surgery. Her proactive communication with both the patient and the care team ensured a smooth process. Ultimately, the patient required surgery, which went flawlessly thanks to the team's preparation. The patient's wife expressed deep gratitude for the seamless experience and comprehensive care accomplished in one visit.

Patient Experience

I had cataract surgery and received a multifocal lens implant. The entire staff did a great job of letting me know what to expect, including explaining what issues may pop up. I couldn't be happier with the result. Every single team member was friendly and helpful. I highly recommend people considering this type of procedure contact the folks at Vance Thompson!

- Bruce S., Google Review

Invest in the World's Most Advanced Technology

Technology is always evolving, becoming more efficient, producing better outcomes, and increasing safety. Investing in the world's best technology gives me the comfort that I am doing the absolute BEST for patients and their eyes.

- Michael Greenwood, MD

Patient Experience

Patient Portal

Our recent transition to the Nextech patient management platform brings an exciting new feature that continues our commitment to providing a world-class experience.

On August 1st, we launched our Patient Portal. This secure, user-friendly platform will enhance the patients' experience by enabling them to send secure messages, request appointments, update demographic information, review visit summaries, and more.

We believe this portal will not only improve our patients' engagement and satisfaction, but also streamline communication and administrative processes. Patients will receive a registration link via email or text message, enabling them to easily access and utilize these features.

We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to any feedback you may have about this new service. Thank you for your support as we strive to provide the best possible care for our shared patients.

Save the Date

Join us for our upcoming educational events, designed to keep you at the forefront of eye care and featuring expert-led sessions on the latest research, innovations in LASIK, advancements in cataract, and more. Mark your calendars and join us in these enriching professional development opportunities.

Montana Symposium

Friday, October 11, 2024

Omaha Symposium

Friday, October 25, 2024

Sioux Falls Symposium

Friday, March 28, 2025

2025 Tech Training Series

Every Tuesday January 14–April 1

Scan to see all upcoming events,
doctor resources, and opportunities.



Vision Trip of a Lifetime: See & Do Cataract Surgery

Tanner Ferguson, MD

Since 2015, our commitment to patient-centered care has driven the evolution of our See & Do cataract surgery program. This approach allows patients to have their consultation and surgery on the same day, offering a streamlined experience for those traveling from afar or seeking to minimize disruption to their daily lives.

Over time, our process has been refined and retooled to balance efficiency and doing what's best for patients. Today, our program incorporates three key elements that have significantly enhanced the patient experience:

1. Back-to-Back surgery
2. Once-daily drop regimen
3. Simplified post-operative care

Each of these factors has elevated our See & Do cataract surgery program to help patients return to their lives while also ensuring they have the best possible outcome.

Benefits of this approach

Streamlined Follow-Up Care

The incorporation of Back-to-Back surgery enables a simplification of post-operative visits. It allows for both eyes to be evaluated and followed up at the same cadence following surgery—1-day, 1-week, and 1-month.

Back-to-Back surgery offers several advantages compared to eyes scheduled 1-week or more apart, as it significantly reduces the number of visits for patients.

Improved Patient Comfort

The Back-to-Back approach also helps patients with a high magnitude of refractive error to minimize time with anisometropia, which can be a major inconvenience for patients and can produce issues with depth perception, dizziness, headaches, and can lead to falls.

Simplified Medication Regimen

Further, with the drop-a-day option in which patients instill one combination drop in each eye daily for 1-month, the complexity of post-operative drop regimens is minimized for patients.

Enhanced Neuroadaptation

Moreover, when implanting advanced technology intraocular lenses (IOLs), Back-to-Back surgery helps with neuroadaptation as the eyes adapt together to the new optical system introduced into their eyes.

Customized Care

Because we would never compromise on safety, it's important to note that not every patient scheduled for See & Do cataract surgery or the Back-to-Back option is a candidate. If, during our advanced diagnostic testing or exam we discover pathology (e.g., dry eye syndrome, anterior basement membrane dystrophy) that should be treated ahead of surgery, we would postpone it to a later date after the eye has been optimized for surgery. This possibility is addressed with patients at the time of their pre-visit phone call, during which we also discuss their IOL options for achieving the vision they desire after surgery.

We invite you to experience our process firsthand through our mini-fellowship program.

By participating in this program, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Observe our See & Do process in action
- Learn about our patient evaluation and selection criteria
- Understand See & Do surgeries and follow-up care protocol

If you're interested in learning more about our See & Do program or participating in a mini-fellowship, please email doctorsupport@vancethompsonvision.com to schedule.

Safe and Savvy Prescribing of Oral Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Mitch Ibach, an optometrist at Vance Thompson Vision, Sioux Falls, recently published an article with Dr. Blair Lonsberry on Safe and Savvy Prescribing of Oral Pharmaceuticals. Here are a few "dos and don'ts" surrounding oral pharmaceuticals commonly prescribed to manage ocular and periocular conditions.

1. Ask patients what reactions they have to medications. Many patients report an allergy to medications, but it may be a side effect rather than a true allergy.
2. Allergic responses typically occur within an hour of taking a medicine, whereas side effects may take several days to present. The outlier here is a delayed type 4 hypersensitivity where the immune response builds over time (ex., an exposure conjunctivitis with brimonidine).
3. Azithromycin is equally effective as doxycycline for treating MGD, with fewer side effects.
4. Take a probiotic 2 hours after an antibiotic to minimize GI side effects.
5. Medrol Dosepak can be a good starting point for prescribing oral steroids.



Scan this QR code to
read the full article in
Review of Optometry.



Russell Swan, MD

Bozeman, MT and Billings, MT

Dr. Russell Swan is a board-certified ophthalmologist who leads our Montana locations. Originally drawn to the medical field by a passion for service, he continues to be inspired by supporting the teams in Bozeman and Billings, serving patients, and by the doctors who entrust the care of their patients to VTV.

A PRK patient himself, Dr. Swan knows firsthand the quality of life patients experience when they are given their sight back through vision correction procedures. Dr. Swan is excited about the breakthroughs in advanced technology IOLs which provide the ability to customize surgical options to meet a patient's visual desires.

When he's not in the clinic, Dr. Swan enjoys camping, hiking, backpacking, golfing, and skiing with his wife and kids. The family also dabbles in hobby farming with a geothermal greenhouse and a flock of chickens, and they are looking for recommendations of the next animal to add to their homestead.



John Goertz, OD

Omaha, NE

Dr. Goertz has been a respected member of the optometric community in Omaha for more than 20 years. He began his career shortly after the FDA approved the excimer laser in 1995. Since then, his expertise in pre- and post-operative management of refractive and cataract surgery patients has grown alongside advancements in laser surgery. Additionally, Dr. Goertz specializes in managing corneal disease and glaucoma cases and has extensive co-management experience.

Before dedicating his career to optometry and world-class patient care, Dr. Goertz intended to pursue work as an audio engineer in the recording industry. He remains an audiophile and taps into his passion for music with his vintage McIntosh stereo system. When he's not listening to music, he and his wife enjoy tackling home improvement projects together.

In September, Dr. Goertz was awarded Optometrist of the Year by the Nebraska Optometric Association! We are thrilled to see the NOA recognize Dr. Goertz's contributions to the field of optometry.

Let's Connect

Find more on our OD Portal

To find research, CE opportunities, and additional resources, visit our OD Portal at vancethompsonvision.com/od

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Listen to the adVANCED Patient Care podcast

Designed to keep you at the forefront of the field, Vance Thompson Vision's podcast offers dynamic insights, practical clinic tips, and engaging discussions with experts. Recent episodes cover groundbreaking research, the latest advancements in LASIK, and innovative approaches to cataract treatment, providing you with the knowledge and tools needed to elevate your craft.

