

Kowa's Non-Mydriatic Digital Fundus Camera Takes Aim

Kowa's Alpha-D camera delivers top-notch performance in a coveted digital package.

By Lisa P. Rovick, COMT

KOWA Optimed Inc.'s Non-mydriatic Alpha-D digital fundus camera addresses the problems associated with other retinal imaging systems. Using noncontact technology, it delivers an impressive set of features that make it very effective.

Features

This new camera has it all: ultra-high resolution, easy patient and camera adjustment, the ability to capture an optic disc image through a pupil as small as 3.7mm, and compatibility with most PC-based office systems. Operation is straightforward, allowing even inexperienced staff to become proficient in a short time.

The Alpha-D is compact and has a footprint not much larger than a standard noncontact tonometer. Despite its small size, it is very adjustable. The electronic chin rest has a range of 60mm, and the optical system adjusts effortlessly to align with your patient's eyes. The control knobs are easily within reach of the joystick, so fine adjustments can be made quickly.

With three internal fixation targets, you can take a single central or peripheral retinal photo or a stereo photo. A wider view is obtained with the larger 45° angle function and a smaller, more detailed view uses the 20° setting.

The instrument's wide diopter compensation range accommodates patient refractive errors. The Alpha-D also features a bigger external LCD monitor and a camera with higher resolution than most non-mydriatic digital fundus cameras. Its 5.6-in. size LCD replaces the view finder eye piece found on older fundus cameras and also reduces operator fatigue. The super-high, scientific grade 2.1 megapixel resolution charge coupling device (CCD) camera provides the ultimate in sharp detail. If you prefer, you can choose a new triple-CCD version

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with an external six megapixel camera, which provides still video output and a direct connection to a printer or storage drive.

No Dilation

The unit is set up to automatically select the flash intensity for each photo. The photographer is only required to center the image and push a button to take a picture; the rest is done automatically by the camera. This makes it possible



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The Non-mydriatic Alpha-D is compatible with most PC-based office computers and networks.

to document fundus appearance without the use of dilating drops. An additional small pupil setting extends this benefit to people with pupils smaller than 3.7mm, one of the smallest measurement settings among nonmydriatic fundus cameras.

Digital Benefits

Because Kowa's Alpha-D is digital, you don't have to purchase, develop, or wait for film to return from the processor. That saves time, as photos can be viewed while the patient is still in the office. USB ports are easily accessible to allow plug-and-play capability, so you can transfer a photo from the camera to a computer for viewing on a larger screen or for storage and later viewing. Since photos are instant, immediate feedback and error correction

Combined with Kowa's VK-2 Digital Imaging System, the storage, transfer, and comparison of photos is faster than ever. With this alignment and focus system that has luminous dots for positioning, optic nerve head alignment is simplified, and adjustment dials are all within easy reach. This camera makes it easy for anyone in your practice to point, click, and capture optical images. ■

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where to find it

Kowa Optimed, Inc.
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