

A Tragic Tale Turned into a Technology Breakthrough

When tragedy strikes, it can be difficult to find the silver lining. But one man used a heartbreaking experience as motivation to develop a revolutionary technology that has since saved the vision of countless people.

Douglas Anderson of Dunfermline, Scotland had a life-changing experience when his 5 year old son, Leif, suffered a spontaneous retinal detachment. Despite having received regular comprehensive eye exams, the doctor could only provide a fleeting glimpse of the inside of Leif's eyes given that children have difficulty staying still. This resulted in the blindness of Leif's left eye due to complications from the retinal detachment.

Motivated by this event, Douglas decided to develop a better solution for eye examinations and formed Crombie Anderson Design Consultants to work on the project. In 1994, the team produced their first prototype – an imaging technology that enabled eye doctors to visualize 200 degrees of the retina with just one click. To manufacture and commercialize this product, Douglas founded Optos – named after the Greek word for vision – with his 9 year old son Leif giving it its name.

The machine generates an Optomap, which is a digital image of the retina created by the Optos scanning laser technology and is currently used by some eye doctors during examinations to screen both adults and children for diseases such as melanoma (cancer), diabetic eye disease, and retinal holes and detachments. Unlike traditional retinal exams which are limited in scope, Optomap enables examination of over 80% of the entire surface area of the retina (the inside of the eye) at one time

with one high resolution image. This allows detection of diseases in their early stages before they cause any symptoms, enabling us to save our eyes from avoidable vision loss.

Douglas Anderson believes that if the Optomap had been available at that time, it would have been possible to detect Leif's detached retina in time to be properly treated and his vision would have been saved.

At Chic Eyes, we feel strongly about stopping preventable blindness and want our patients to benefit from this remarkable technology too – which is why we have invested in the newest Optomap California machine to best serve our patients.

Contact us today to learn more.



Dr. Wendy Ng,
Optometrist

Chic Eyes