Imaging Innovation

Topcon's NW500 non-mydriatic retinal camera offers sharp and consistent image quality in well-lit conditions.

In a fast-paced world with an increasingly demanding and aging patient population, Topcon recognizes that technology – no matter how advanced – needs to be smart, value-driven, and efficient.

Enter Topcon Healthcare's latest addition to its imaging portfolio – the NW500 non-mydriatic retinal camera, which very much lives up to this ambitious strategy, as acknowledged by Dr Jacob Cheng, Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist and Director of Retina Services and Vitreo-retinal Surgery at the Eagle Eye Centre, Singapore. "In addition to its imaging capabilities that enable optimal patient care, the NW500 provides value through its effect on workflow efficiency," he explains. "Its abilities to image through small pupils and in well-lit conditions translate into timesaving benefits. Reliably consistent generation of high-quality images by the NW500 also means there is reduced need for recapture."

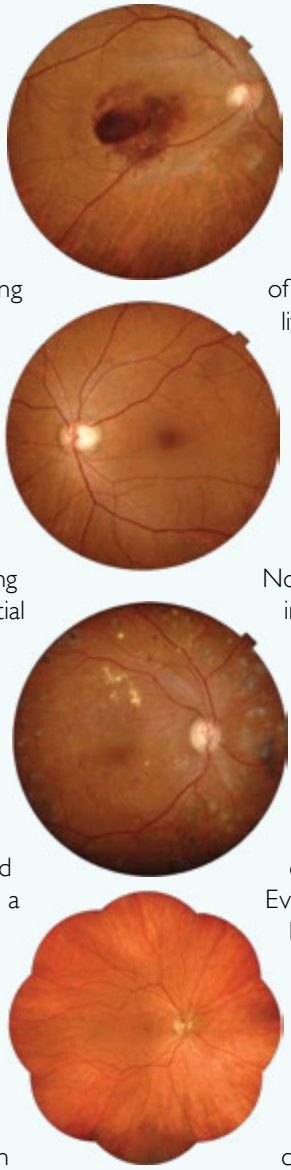
Smart and efficient

There are a number of features that allow the NW500 to stand out from the crowd. This user-friendly fundus camera can provide sharp and consistent imaging even in well-lit conditions (623 lux or less) – and with less flare and shadow than its predecessor (the TRC-NW400). The 12-megapixel sensor delivers high quality images, allowing for clearer review and analysis. Quality is boosted still further by the NW500's innovative slit scan illumination and rolling shutter mechanism, which enable the camera to overcome the issue of images unsuitable for grading, in turn reducing workload and streamlining diagnostic workflow.

The NW500 is smart, with full automation of alignment, focus, and capture – all facilitated by the easy-to-use interface and one touch operation. In practice, these features allow clinicians to delegate screening to staff, if desired – a potential benefit to workflow efficiency.

Patient throughput can benefit from the NW500. Certainly, the new camera is faster than its predecessor in terms of pure processing power. But it is that patients do not need to be dilated or moved to a dark room that really deliver the timesaving benefits recognized by Dr Cheng – not to mention increased comfort and an improved experience for patients.

But how? We return to the innovative slit scan technology that is embedded into the NW500. Providing 50-degree imaging across the three traditional fixation positions (disc, center, and macula), as well as the nine fixation positions for peripheral photography, which provide up to 90 degrees of view without the need for intermediate previews, the NW500 delivers a double blow to the competition: the ability to capture high-quality retinal images (even in those patients with smaller pupils – a pupil size of 2.0 mm or more) in well-lit conditions, and high-clarity imaging of the peripheral retina, with reduced light scattering in patients with media opacities.



Designed with the end user in mind

Not content with a host of high impact features, the NW500 boasts a touch-panel monitor with 360 degrees of rotation, allowing the operator to capture fundus photographs from virtually any position, allowing a wide range of room configurations. Even smaller practices can benefit from the most advanced technology thanks to the NW500's compact footprint. It can accommodate the needs of any clinical or screening business with an array of connectivity options – Ez Capture, IMAGEnet® 6, shared folder, and direct dtorage (USB/LAN). Finally, the device is DICOM compliant, meaning easier integration with PACS and EMR programs.

In the words of one doctor: "If I was asked to describe the greatest assets of the NW500 using just three words, I would highlight its speed, consistency, and dependability," says Dr Cheng. "Unquestionably, however, the three-word limit fails to encompass the multiple attributes of the NW500 that I believe make it an excellent choice for all busy clinics."

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