

Local Optometrist Becomes First Oregon Fellow of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control



Dr. Jason Oilar, a local optometrist serving the Eugene/Springfield area was recently distinguished as a Fellow of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control. The FIAOMC credential requires peer recognition for the practice of excellence in Orthokeratology. In addition, the Fellow Candidate must submit extensive written work on clinical cases and pass a written and oral examination that is approved by a panel of leading doctors and vision scientists. Ortho-K is a growing modality of non-surgical vision correction that is FDA approved for children and adults. There

are less than 90 practicing doctors in the U.S. and 130 worldwide that have earned the Fellow of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control designation and Dr. Oilar is the first and only in Oregon. Now the Eugene/Springfield area has one in our community! In addition to holding the FIAOMC, Dr. Oilar also holds the FSLs, Fellow of the Scleral Lens Society. This credential demonstrates excellence in the fitting of scleral contact lenses, which are custom specialty contacts used primarily to restore vision for people suffering from corneal disease, corneal trauma and severe dry eyes.

Specialty Custom Contact Lenses Help to Prevent Worsening of Nearsightedness in Children

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Myopia, or nearsightedness, has become a major public health issue. Myopia is one of five ocular conditions identified as immediate priorities by the World Health Organization's Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness. The prevalence of myopia has increased throughout the world reaching epidemic levels. Children with two nearsighted parents are much more likely to become myopic themselves compared to children with no family history of myopia. However, studies show that environmental factors may also contribute to rapid increases in myopia such as increased time indoors, excessive near work, poor diet and vitamin D deficiency.



Figure 1 Retinal Detachment

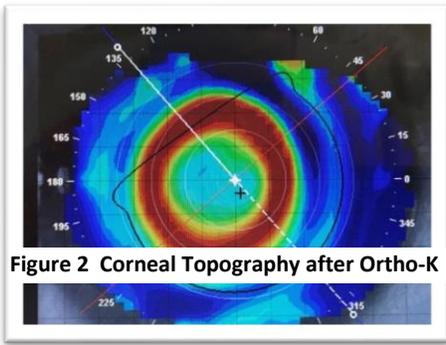


Figure 2 Corneal Topography after Ortho-K

When myopia is not controlled, it can lead to increased risk for sight threatening conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma and retinal detachments (see Figure 1). Although some of these conditions can be corrected surgically, vision loss from a severe retinal detachment can be permanent.

Orthokeratology is a very effective and safe procedure used to control myopia or nearsightedness. It entails the design of custom contact lens retainers to be used while sleeping

to gently reshape the cornea, the front surface of the eye (see Figure 2). This reshaping provides a temporary reduction in nearsightedness and can eliminate the need for daytime glasses and contacts, while reducing the risk of myopia progression. The procedure is used primarily in children who are showing increased levels of myopia at each annual eye exam. Although myopia control is the primary reason to pursue orthokeratology, it has the added benefit of eliminating daytime glasses and contacts. Therefore, it is a very effective option even for adults who would like another non-surgical option for vision correction.

For further information regarding orthokeratology and myopia control, contact our office, Eyecare Focus & Specialties in Springfield at (541) 726-5055.