

IOLMaster: The impact of “new technology” presbyopia IOLs and the May 2005 CMS reimbursement ruling

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The IOLMaster has emerged as the #1 biometry technology in the USA (ref. D. Leaming MD, Palm Springs, CA. www.analeyz.com). Surgeons are benefiting from the instrument's superior accuracy and precision as well as the increased practice efficiency and reduced overhead facilitated by the system's non-technician dependent results and integrated, multifunction capability. However, practices that have historically been satisfied with +/-1D outcomes compensated with spectacles may not fully realize these benefits. Now, with the introduction of the latest technology presbyopia-addressing IOLs and the 2005 CMS reimbursement ruling, this is rapidly changing. Much has been written in the literature on how to handle billing, etc.; here we focus on how to take full advantage of your IOLMaster when stepping up to these new, exciting IOLs.

Companies such as AMO have recognized the IOLMaster as an important biometry device in achieving the precise outcomes required for the new multifocal and accommodating IOLs. Patients paying the balance of charges out-of-pocket for these lenses will not be satisfied with +/-1D outcomes and post-procedure spectacles. We are focusing on the following areas to support this:

- Education of IOL manufacturer staff on the benefits as well as proper use of the IOLMaster. Success with these IOLs requires correct operation of the instrument. We are working with each company to raise their level of IOLMaster applications knowledge as it relates to each IOL, including information on how to address lens constants and the absolute requirement of personalization for these new lenses on the IOLMaster. Also, IOL companies are helping us identify sites that may need additional training or support from Carl Zeiss Meditec in their use of the instrument. This cooperative effort benefits the IOL manufacturer, Carl Zeiss Meditec, and, most importantly, you the customer.

- Education of current IOLMaster users on current “best practices”. We have found that some long-time users of the IOLMaster may not be aware of current techniques that have evolved over the past six years. Applying best practices in measurement technique improve, for example, a user's ability to penetrate dense cataracts and achieve very repeatable keratometry measurements. We are addressing this through continuing education hands-on courses at major academies as well as through web presentations and new training materials available to owners. Check our website or contact Carl Zeiss Meditec for information on upcoming programs, or if you have specific suggestions or requests for programs and/or materials.

If you attend an IOLMaster seminar or course, you will see the following recurring themes regarding best practices. **All of this is covered in your User Manual.** Also, a laminated Quick Guide is available which highlights these:

- 1. Proper measurement technique.** For example, axial length measurements should be evaluated on the quality of the waveform first, then on SNR. Many practices have this backwards. A high SNR with a poor and unrepeatable waveform constitutes a bad measurement.
- 2. Repeatability of measurements.** You should have at least 4 or 5 axial length measurements within 0.02mm, and at least 3 keratometry measurements within 0.25D in each axis. If you cannot achieve this, we can help you with your technique.
- 3. Use of correct lens constants.** This is possibly one of the least understood areas, arising in many cases from the delegation of this task without full understanding of its importance. IOLMaster lens constants are different. Personalization of lens constants based on outcomes data is essential for best refractive outcomes, especially for the newest multifocal and accommodating IOLs. An applications note is also available detailing this procedure.
- 4. Verifying proper instrument calibration.** It simply makes good sense to frequently verify that all of your surgical planning equipment and instruments are working properly. This is easily achieved on the IOLMaster using the provided test eye; we recommend daily checking of the instrument to help ensure best outcomes.

We are committed to helping our customers achieve the best results possible with our products and services. If you have suggestions or requests for specific information or support, please let us know.

