

Soundbite script – Keep an eye on diabetic retinopathy

Pamela Garcia, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"Retinopathy is a complication of diabetes that affects the back of the eye and can cause vision loss, blurry vision and other complications." (:10)

Andrew Hade (HAID), patient

"I initially was dismissive about the eye test, because, I had no symptoms. "It's hard to think of something being wrong that's not actually causing things that you're noticing are wrong. So, imagine my surprise when they're like, 'You need to visit an eye care specialist to make sure this is not a systemic issue that's getting worse.'" (:27)

Rejane (RE-JAN-EE) Evans, OSF HealthCare medical office assistant

"For all our controlled and uncontrolled diabetes patients, we have our machine that consists of four pictures, two of the right eye, two of the left. They get the results right after the exam. And if they have diabetic retinopathy, then we will refer them to a specialist where they will start treatment." (:26)

Rejane Evans, OSF HealthCare medical office assistant

"Some patients didn't even know about it, and it really helps them. Some patients say I'm having vision loss, or my prescriptions just aren't right. Well, a lot of that has to do with diabetic retinopathy. They didn't know that it was their diabetes that is affecting their eyes." (:20)

Pamela Garcia, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"If you have diabetes, to prevent complications like this, it's recommended that you keep your cholesterol and blood sugars under control, as well as if you have hypertension, keeping your blood sugar under control," she says. (:13)

Andrew Hade (HAID), patient

"Now that I do know, I can take steps to prevent the worst possible result, which is, going blind. I don't want to go blind, so getting the test makes it so I might be able to avoid that. Not taking the test means that I wouldn't know." (:21)