

Script – Broadcast – Keep your eye on diabetic retinopathy

INTRO

Andrew Hade was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago. While the Rockford, Illinois, resident was surprised, he was more shocked when he later found out he also has diabetic retinopathy.

((SOS))

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)

VO

Garcia adds that early symptoms of retinopathy include floaters, blurriness, dark areas of vision and difficulty perceiving colors. Mild cases may be treated with diabetes management and more serious cases could require surgery. It's important for people with diabetes to schedule a thorough eye exam at least once a year. That's because most patients, like Hade, display no symptoms of diabetic retinopathy until it's too late.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), 30.3 million people in the United States (9.4% of the population) have diabetes – one-third of these people don't realize they have it. In Illinois, 1.3 million adults (12.5% of the population) have diabetes, and 341,000 of those people don't know it. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death. People suffering from diabetes are at a greater risk for heart disease, stroke, blindness, and kidney failure. Diabetes impacts people of all ages and ethnic groups.

TAG

Three years ago, OSF HealthCare began offering LumineticsCore at eight sites and has since expanded to several OSF locations in Illinois.

LumineticsCore is an artificial intelligence (AI) platform manufactured by [Digital Diagnostics](#), a leading diagnostic health care company. The cameras are used to detect diabetic retinopathy during a patient visit by analyzing retinal images for signs of disease without the need for a specialist to interpret the images.

In the first six months of using this technology in OSF HealthCare offices, 28 out of 100 people with diabetes tested positive, with about a 2% false-positive rate. That's 28% of patients with diabetes who would have been at risk of losing their vision in the future if not for the screening to detect it early.

Hade has simple advice for people with diabetes. Get tested for retinopathy. Even if you don't have any symptoms.

((SOS))

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.” (:18)