Dr. Huong's story
from the diabetic retinopathy screening project in Vietnam

Dr. Huong is an ophthalmologist at the Ophthalmology Department of Nghe An Hospital of Endocrinology (NAHE). Her department was equipped with an old model fundus camera which required mydriatic eye drops to be able to take fundus images. The fundus images would then require review and analysis by an eye doctor. This resulted in longer waiting times and temporary blurry vision for patients posing great challenges for those who travelled alone. After getting the result, patients who had retinal damage would be referred to a specialized hospital for treatment.

Dr. Huong examining a patient at her hospital

"This is really challenging for patients, especially for the older diabetic patients who must depend on their children or relatives to go to my hospital for diabetes treatment and then to another hospital for eye examination and treatment. Therefore, many patients might be frustrated and not go for their eye examination, so their condition could get worse", shared Dr. Huong.

In mid-2024, with support from NIDEK through Orbis International in Vietnam, Nghe An Hospital of Endocrinology, and five other health facilities in Nam Dinh, Nghe An and Can Tho, were provided with a non-mydriatic fundus camera and access to Cybersight AI for early detection of diabetic retinopathy in diabetic patients and other high-risk groups.

"The NIDEK fundus camera AFC-330 helped us keep records of patients' fundus images and monitor the progress of their retina condition so that we can early detect any complications in their retina. Besides, Cybersight AI generates the grading results of retina lesions rapidly - that reduces waiting time for patients, increases patient satisfaction and eases workload and pressure on medical staff. With the combination of the NIDEK fundus camera and Cybersight AI, more patients are screened for early detection of retinal diseases and referred for treatment in a specialized hospital", said Dr. Huong.

A patient is screened for DR at NAHE

As of June 2025, nearly 4,000 patients were screened for diabetic retinopathy using the NIDEK fundus camera and Cybersight AI. Almost 30% of the graded cases were referred to ophthalmologists for further evaluation and treatment.

In October 2024, with support from Orbis, Dr. Huong participated in a one-week hospital-based training (HBT) in treatment of diabetic retinopathy at Nghe An Eye Hospital alongside other colleagues from Nghe An Eye Hospital and Tay Bac Nghe An General Hospital under the dedicated guidance of Dr. Vu Tuan Anh, a retina specialist invited by Orbis from the Vietnam National Eye Hospital.

Dr. Huong, the fifth from right, observing retinal specialist Vu Tuan Anh examining a patient during the HBT

Dr. Huong practising laser treatment for a patient at Nghe An Eye Hospital during the HBT

“The HBT helped strengthen my skills in anti-VEGF injection and laser treatment, the two fundamental techniques in medical retinal treatment. I anticipate that in the coming time we will be able to provide regular treatment services at our hospital instead of referring patients to a specialized hospital as before”, commented Dr. Huong.

“We are now obtaining approval from the Ministry of Health for providing diabetic retinopathy treatment services at our hospital”, added Dr. Huong.

With the remarkable progress in diabetic retinopathy screening, NAHE has presented a successful model in screening, early detection and referral of diabetic retinopathy. This model has been widely shared with other sites and scale up to other places in Vietnam is underway.

Product/model name: Non-Mydriatic Auto Fundus Camera AFC-330