

The Story of “K9”

Normally Zeiss Cirrus HD-OCT machines are located in fixed locations in hospitals.

However in West London where I work we had only have one situated at The Western Eye Hospital in 2009.

John Hood from Zeiss kindly leant me his demonstration machine while he was on holiday letting me into a little secret that he carries his demonstration machine in his own car!

So the idea of a mobile OCT service emerged.

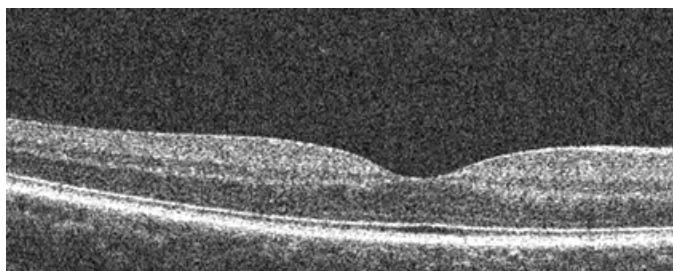
Together with my Engineering son Tom Lee, and Zeiss engineers Joel Chapman we modified and designed a roll on roll off ferry like system on Pneumatic wheels. Hence K9 was born.

Fully mobile cushioned with soft pneumatic wheels. He is transported in my Shogun from clinic to clinic in a role on roly off ferry like fashion. Just like the star Ship Enenterprise he separates from the trolley to slide into the Shogun on a specially made ramp.

Zeiss in Germany confirm this machine is built like a tank – weighing in at 80kg we would agree!

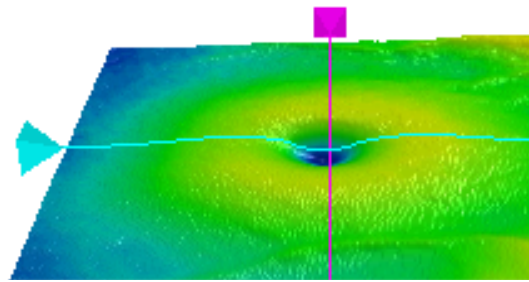
He now has his own Wireless network built in to print and transfer images and allow other doctors in the clinic to view the images.

This has enabled us to provide a truly mobile Optical Coherence Tomography service where ever I consult.



In February 2010 we started an NHS out reach Clinic at Mount Vernon Hospital to offer a high quality Age related macular degeneration service to the north of Hillingdon and to Hertfordshire. This service really took off in the lovely PFI newly built outpatient department building.

K9 is now 2 years old!! 26 August 2009 date of birth.



He is also breeding with K10 born at The Hillingdon Hospital in July 2011. He has some new young friends at The Western Eye Hospital.

A big thank you to Joel Chapman and John Hood who look after K9 when he is not so well. He had a fall in the snow and broke his nose (chin rest) as well as damaging the trolley. All repaired I am pleased to say. One of his 5 lasers has been unreliable and is being replaced, but seems other of his friends also have the same issue and the US are investigating.

I keep in close contact with the Engineers and the Development team in California USA keeping me right up-to-date with the latest developments and software. Currently we are awaiting for Version 5.2 software and I am hoping to be the first in the UK to have version 6.00.

This technology is truly amazing and K9 has proved a real workhorse.