Claims:

1. A method for providing vision correction to a patient, comprising: a) obtaining at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement of the patient; b) providing said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement to a free form custom lens manufacturing system; c) producing a customized lens using the free form custom lens manufacturing system; and d) providing said custom lens to the patient.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said customized lens is one of a contact lens, an inlay, an onlay, and an IOL.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement is obtained by at least one of a wavefront sensing technique and a corneal topography technique.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein providing said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement to said free form custom lens manufacturing system comprises at least one of voice signals and data signals transmitted over a communication system.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said voice or data signals are transmitted over at least one of a land-based and a wireless-based communication system.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement is taken at location selected from the group consisting of a practitioner's office, at a retail store, at a kiosk, at a vehicle, at a patient's workplace and at a patient's home.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said free form custom lens manufacturing system is located substantially proximal to said practitioner's office.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein said free form custom lens manufacturing system is located substantially remote from said practitioner's office.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising obtaining a patient history data.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement includes corneal topography information.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein providing said custom lens comprises a personalized presentation to said patient.

12. A method for providing vision correction to a patient, comprising: a) obtaining at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement; and b) providing a display of available vision correction for said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement in the form of at least one of a picture, a computer simulation, a graphic display.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein providing said display comprises providing said patient with said display such that said patient may make a subjective evaluation of the available vision correction.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein an option matrix that includes at least a comparison of prospective vision correction as a function of a prospective eye treatment is provided.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said prospective eye treatment includes at least one standard lens, at least one custom lens, and no treatment.

16. An apparatus for forming a custom lens, comprising:

a computer processor in digital communication with a digital media storage device, wherein the digital media storage device stores software code;

a transmitter in logical communication with the processor and also in logical communication with a communication network, wherein the software is executable upon demand and operative with the processor to:

receive data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye;

receive data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement; and

transmit the data descriptive of a characteristic of the patient's eye and the data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement to a manufacturing apparatus; wherein the manufacturing apparatus generates one or more custom lenses based upon the data descriptive of the characteristic of the patient's eye and the data descriptive of the fitting lens measurement.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the software is additionally operative with the processor to transmit the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye and the data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement to a manufacturing apparatus via the communication network.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye comprises bare eye data.

19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye comprises habitual lens data.

20. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the software is additionally operative with the processor to generate and transmit simulation data through the communication network, wherein the simulation data generated comprises one or more measurements related to the patient's vision based upon a modeled use of the patient wearing the custom lens as compared to one or both of: the patient wearing a standard lens and the patient's vision without any vision correction lens.

Claims:

1. A method for providing vision correction to a patient, comprising: a) obtaining at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement of the patient; b) providing said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement to a free form custom lens manufacturing system; c) producing a customized lens using the free form custom lens manufacturing system; and d) providing said custom lens to the patient.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said customized lens is one of a contact lens, an inlay, an onlay, and an IOL.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement is obtained by at least one of a wavefront sensing technique and a corneal topography technique.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein providing said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement to said free form custom lens manufacturing system comprises at least one of voice signals and data signals transmitted over a communication system.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said voice or data signals are transmitted over at least one of a land-based and a wireless-based communication system.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement is taken at location selected from the group consisting of a practitioner's office, at a retail store, at a kiosk, at a vehicle, at a patient's workplace and at a patient's home.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said free form custom lens manufacturing system is located substantially proximal to said practitioner's office.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein said free form custom lens manufacturing system is located substantially remote from said practitioner's office.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising obtaining a patient history data.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one bare eye data measurement includes corneal topography information.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein providing said custom lens comprises a personalized presentation to said patient.

12. A method for providing vision correction to a patient, comprising: a) obtaining at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement; and b) providing a display of available vision correction for said at least one bare eye data measurement, habitual lens data measurement and/or fitting lens data measurement in the form of at least one of a picture, a computer simulation, a graphic display.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein providing said display comprises providing said patient with said display such that said patient may make a subjective evaluation of the available vision correction.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein an option matrix that includes at least a comparison of prospective vision correction as a function of a prospective eye treatment is provided.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said prospective eye treatment includes at least one standard lens, at least one custom lens, and no treatment.

16. An apparatus for forming a custom lens, comprising:

a computer processor in digital communication with a digital media storage device, wherein the digital media storage device stores software code;

a transmitter in logical communication with the processor and also in logical communication with a communication network, wherein the software is executable upon demand and operative with the processor to:

receive data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye;

receive data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement; and

transmit the data descriptive of a characteristic of the patient's eye and the data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement to a manufacturing apparatus; wherein the manufacturing apparatus generates one or more custom lenses based upon the data descriptive of the characteristic of the patient's eye and the data descriptive of the fitting lens measurement.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the software is additionally operative with the processor to transmit the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye and the data descriptive of a fitting lens measurement to a manufacturing apparatus via the communication network.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye comprises bare eye data.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the data descriptive of a characteristic of a patient's eye comprises habitual lens data.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the software is additionally operative with the processor to generate and transmit simulation data through the communication network, wherein the simulation data generated comprises one or more measurements related to the patient's vision based upon a modeled use of the patient wearing the custom lens as compared to one or both of: the patient wearing a standard lens and the patient's vision without any vision correction lens.