



Cindy Souza, of Stockton, gets a complexion analysis during a cosmetic event at Central Valley Eye Medical group in Stockton.

## Local ophthalmologist runs trials at Stanford

Story by **Catlan Nguyen**, News-Sentinel staff writer / Photos by **Bea Ahbeck**

An ophthalmologist who practices with Central Valley Medical Eye Group in Lodi recently started running a trial at Stanford to help patients with eyesight issues.

Dr. Kimberly Cockerham created the trial, which aims to allow people to salvage and improve their vision if they have medical conditions revolving around their eyes.

Before the trial could start, Cockerham wrote grants, raised funds and the trial passed pre-clinical tests.

So far, the trials have shown promising results, according to Cockerham. Two children have received the treatment — one, nine months ago and the other two months ago. The treatment made a tumor in one patient's eye go away and both children still have both of their eyes. Typically, when a person has cancer in their eye, it must be removed completely.

"The hardest thing about my job is realizing it's the year 2019 and we still have patients that we can't do anything for," Cockerham said. "Patients' families think that everything has a cure but unfortunately, it doesn't. Our health care system is very broken and the worst I've ever seen it. Many patients can't get the help they need."

The trial is now accepting people in the 209 area. If interested, go to Cockerham's website [www.cockerhammd.com](http://www.cockerhammd.com) and contact her to apply.

Cockerham also runs a foundation called Let's Face it Together, which helps patients understand and navigate the U.S. health care system. It also helps give funds and coverage to those who apply and qualify. Patients can also receive prosthetics. If you're interested

in applying, visit [LFITFoundation.org](http://LFITFoundation.org).

Cockerham specializes in neuro, orbit and plastic fields.

This means not only does she work on eye disorders and the brain but she also works with skin in terms of trauma or for cosmetic purposes.

Cockerham noted how Botox and filler have always been dominant in the cosmetic plastic field, but the usage of platelet-rich plasma or blood and stem cells has been gaining popularity.

These methods take the individual's own blood and reinject it into areas to help regrow hair or fade scarring in the skin.

The platelet-rich plasma method has been used for decades on soldiers and war victims to help them heal quicker but has been used for cosmetic reasons for the last five to 10 years.

Fat being transposed into stem cells and then used as eye filler, is also becoming more popular.



Dr. Kimberly Cockerham

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