"My colleagues and I have been working through the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit not on the front lines in ICUs treating COVID patients. We've been seeing 35-50 patients a day, about 60% of our normal volume, primarily treating patients with retinal emergencies and those requiring anti-VEGF Rx to prevent severe vision loss. Ophthalmology has been the hardest hit of all specialties in medicine, with -79% patient volume based on a recent Medscape survey. Most general ophthalmologists have shuttered their offices.

The most striking development I have observed is the level of fear and panic that's become quite pervasive in our society. We have young healthy employees who won't come in to work. Most of my patients are over age 60 and the vast majority of them have literally not left their homes in 2+ months at all except to come in to see me; their fear of blindness slightly exceeding their fear of contracting COVID. Challenging times? A gross understatement."

Scott Pendergast, MD, (MED'91)