

16/APR/2018

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN.

The job that I have chosen to sketch is my day-job. I work as an ophthalmic technician for a retinologist.

The sketch shows an average day in my work life. As soon as a patient comes in with a referral letter I feel that I am part of a detective investigation. I am that nerdy lab-pathologist that helps the detective nail-down the culprit by a series of tests & analysis; only in my case it is with highly specialised computerised scanners & instruments.

The best part of my day is when a difficult case comes in. Since most of the instruments depend on light hitting the inside of the eye, any opacity or disruption to the path of light throws obstacles in the test-results. But I thrive on such challenging cases. To be able to find a piece of a puzzle in a difficult case, makes my day.

I am so grateful in that the place where I work grants me the autonomy to do supplementary tests if required or if I think might help to contribute to the diagnosis. Besides this, I also am on the look-out for patients that can be enrolled for certain studies that our clinic performs.

The greatest challenge for me is to be cognizant of the time I spend with each patient at each test. However sometimes there is ~~no~~ no other option but to spend that extra few minutes in a non-compliant case to be able to serve the patient better. People who come in are worried about the health of their sight and are vulnerable. So I try my best to make them feel as comfortable as possible during each test.

I would have like to award full marks for job-satisfaction if it were not for the pay. It gets tiring to be on one's feet the entire day, running between different instruments, thinking of the next steps that need to be done, fulfilling my role as a study-technician, forming new recruits, lending a listening ear to those patients that need special care, dealing with the usual problems that one faces in the health-care service but at the end of the day I feel accomplished when I know that I have given my very best. I would hence rate my job a healthy 7/10.

TANYA MARISA RODRIGUES.